

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA
27 March 2023 / 27 mars 2023**

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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**SUBJECT: SERVICE AGREEMENT: SPECIALIZED POLICING TRAINING
FACILITY**

**OBJET: ACCORD DE PRESTATION DE SERVICE: INSTALLATION DE
FORMATION POLICIÈRE SPÉCIALISÉE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve a Service Agreement between the Ottawa Police Service and the Eastern Ontario Shooting Club. This sole source purchase proposal is based on a five-year term in the amount of \$405,000 total for the duration of the agreement.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa approuve un accord de prestation de service entre le Service de police d'Ottawa et l'Eastern Ontario Shooting Club. Cette proposition d'achat de type « fournisseur unique » est fondée sur une période quinquennale et un montant total de 405 000\$ pour la durée de l'accord.

BACKGROUND

The Ottawa Police Service's (OPS) Tactical Unit is an accredited Hostage Rescue Team and is regulated by the Ministry of the Solicitor General. The Unit is required to be proficient at very specific competencies and complete mandatory specialized training pursuant to Ontario Regulation 3/99 and Provincial Adequacy Standards. Included in

the legislation is the requirement for the Unit to have reasonable access to small- and long-arm shooting ranges in order to ensure it is able to meet those mandated training requirements. Up until 2021, the Unit had secure access to a privately owned facility located at 4048 March Road that met full shooting range requirements. The site enabled to Unit to conduct all required training without any restrictions. That training facility is, however, no longer available due to the property being developed for other purposes.

As a limited temporary solution, the Unit has been renting a shooting lane at the Stittsville Shooting Range located at 7265 Fernbank Road. Although this was beneficial in allowing the Unit to maintain proficiency in some firearm training requirements, it does not provide the ability to conduct all required training and does not allow for the use of specialized training equipment, which means the Stittsville Range is not a viable long-term solution.

DISCUSSION

There are three outdoor shooting ranges in the Ottawa area. All three were considered and two were deemed to not meet the requirements for a variety of reasons.

1. Stittsville Shooting Range – does not meet requirements
2. Connaught Ranges – does not meet requirements
3. Eastern Ontario Shooting Club – meets requirements

The OPS considered all three locations and determined the following:

Stittsville Shooting Range

The Stittsville Shooting Range, located on Fernbank Road, does not meet the requirements of the Tactical Unit as it operates solely as a public shooting range bound by strict rules, which limits the level of training that can be conducted for many of the Tactical Unit's required competencies. The range does not allow users to bring training equipment on site which creates significant challenges to delivering on those mandatory legislative requirements. Additionally, this range operates on a first-come first-serve pay-per-use model which is restrictive to OPS needs. Due to the changing nature of operational demands for the Tactical Unit, it is sometimes necessary to cancel planned training events at this location. If the owners are not notified in advance, the OPS is still required to pay for its use, which presents a financial loss for the Service. This is a public shooting range and scheduling conflicts can limit the duration of the Tactical Unit's training and conversely, it can impact the availability of the Tactical Team to train.

Connaught Range

The other outdoor shooting range in Ottawa is Connaught Range on Shirley Boulevard. This is a military training site that trains over 500 cadets every year. The OPS Tactical Unit currently has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which enables it to use areas of the facility such as the shooting ranges. This site is closed to the public and priority use is always given to military recruit members. The uncertainty associated with having access to the range makes it difficult for the Tactical Unit to fulfil its mandated training. Additionally, due to the changing operational needs of the military, planned and scheduled training exercises by the OPS are often cancelled at the last minute.

Eastern Ontario Shooting Club (EOSC)

The EOSC is a well-established large training facility located on the eastern edge of Ottawa. After an assessment of the other ranges in the Ottawa area, the EOSC meets the needs of the Tactical Unit and is being recommended to the Ottawa Police Services Board (Board) for approval. This facility is divided into two parts; one portion is open to the public and the other is a restricted and private law enforcement area. The law enforcement portion of the facility is divided into individual sole-use areas. Various law enforcement agencies such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Parliamentary Protective Service (PPS) currently lease lanes.

The OPS is proposing to lease one private area that would be 200 metres in length and is specifically designed as a shooting range, with the Board's approval. This would enable the Unit to complete all required firearms training including Police Sniper qualification shooting.

Additionally, there is the capacity to extend the range laterally to accommodate the creation of simulated training exercises. Once established, this area could be used to conduct various types of specialized training by the OPS Tactical Unit, the Emergency Services Unit (ESU), and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Unit. These Units would have the opportunity to carry out specialized individual or joint training in the area which could be used for a variety of disciplines.

Because the range is restricted to law enforcement, there are very few restrictions. This would allow the Tactical Unit to complete a large portion of its mandated annual training which public ranges cannot accommodate.

The OPS Tactical Unit is required to conduct extensive ongoing training weekly, but also has to respond to over 100 calls for service each year. The result is that scheduled training often must be re-scheduled at the last minute. Leasing this facility space means that the OPS will have exclusive access to the site all year round, mitigating cancellation and scheduling issues and enabling the Unit to meet its mandated training

requirements. Having access to such a facility will also allow the OPS to host inter-agency training in various disciplines in a controlled environment. Additionally, any equipment used can be securely stored on site, allowing for effective and efficient set up and tear down for training exercises.

CONSULTATION

Senior members of the Tactical Unit consulted with City Procurement to ensure the sole source rationale was appropriate. Further consultation was conducted to ensure that this aligns with the Facilities Strategic Plan. The Unit performed a thorough review of all potential facilities available within Ottawa area and supported its final determination by exploring the limitations and benefits of each location. It concluded that the EOSC was the only viable option.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of a five-year agreement with the EOSC is \$405,000 pre-tax (\$81,000 per year) which includes the installation of the Unit's existing equipment.

There is the option to incorporate into the contract an expansion that would facilitate setting up additional training grounds to expand its capabilities and enable more extensive training, as well as some additional on-site amenities. Those options and how they will be implemented will be considered in future years. The Tactical Unit has sufficient funding available within its annual operating budget to accommodate the cost of the facility lease, based on its existing 2023 budget base. This is included in Cost Centre 121741.

CONCLUSION

The OPS is requesting approval from the Board to sign a sole source lease with the EOSC in order to meet Ministry-mandated training requirements.

The EOSC is the only facility that meets all the criteria required by the Tactical Unit to satisfy these training requirements effectively and realistically. Additionally, this facility supports the development of an expanded training ground, which is essential for various required training disciplines and could be used by other sections such as OPS' public order unit, as well as joint inter-agency training to promote greater interoperability.