



**Ottawa Police Services Board  
Finance and Audit Committee  
Minutes**

**Meeting #:** 21  
**Date:** July 11, 2023  
**Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Location:** Electronic Participation

**Present:** Councillor C. Curry, Councillor M. Carr, G. Beck

**Others:** K. Ferraro, Executive Director; R. Ben Guedria, Board Assistant; E. Stubbs, Chief; S. Bell, Deputy Chief; T. Ferguson, Deputy Chief; J. Steinbachs, Executive Director; H. O'Toole, Inspector; J. Sweet; M. Anderson

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1. Election of Committee Chair  
Moved by Member Carr  
Seconded by Member Curry
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**That Board Chair G. Beck serve as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.**

Carried

2. Confirmation of Agenda

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm the agenda of the 11 July 2023 meeting.**

Carried

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 Minutes #20 of 9 March 2023

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm Minutes #20 of the 9 March 2023 meeting.**

Carried

4. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

5. Items of Business

5.1 2024 Draft Budget: Process and Timelines

Presentation

The Service provided a presentation and then took questions from the Committee members. It was clarified that the starting point for the budget is usually the previous year's estimates. In the coming months, the budget will be further refined.

With respect to the program and services review that the City is currently undertaking, a question was raised as to whether the Service will be doing something similar as a means of contributing to their efficiencies target in the draft budget forecast. The Service noted it had already achieved a number of efficiencies over the last several years through back office and fleet reviews – areas the City is currently focusing on. The Service is now focused on reviewing its operations and structural changes in terms of how it delivers services and is awaiting the outcomes of the strategic planning process.

In terms of the traffic cameras in the city, it was clarified that OPS does not manage the program but rather provides input. The City does provide

the Service with revenue from red light cameras. In the past it was \$2 million but it may be closer to \$3 million now. It was suggested that since speed cameras can be placed in community safety zones, it might be helpful for the Service to provide input on areas in the city that should be designated as such. A recent report from the City's Collision Committee was referenced, noting one of the recommendations was around more police patrols and enforcement. When asked whether this report had influenced the budget projections, the Service noted it will be further refining its budget needs over the coming months. The Service also noted some vacancies in its Traffic Unit due to the need to move members to the Frontline.

Responding to a question around the possibility of facility costs continuing to escalate, particularly those tied to the new South Facility as well as the relocation of operations at Queensview, the Service noted it had \$220 million of capital dollars to fund the Facilities Strategic Plan and there is some flexibility with those funds in order to address future pressures.

On the topic of the non-911 mental health pilot the City is leading and whether this will translate into a reduction of required OPS resources, it was noted that even if the pilot is a success and is able to expand and build capacity and reduce calls for service being directed to the OPS, the Service is already overflowing with other demands. Any resources that are saved as a result of not attending mental health calls will need to be redeployed to other demands.

A question was raised about the 911 system that the Service operates on behalf of the City and whether the OPS incurs any costs as a result. The Service noted the system was not right-sized for the number of calls being received and discussions are ongoing with the City's Emergency and Protective Services department. The Service currently has a fixed rate cost agreement with the City however they are trying to find a mechanism to ensure they do not bear the financial burden of an increased call volume,

In terms of the projected assessment growth of 1.5%, the final number will not be known until the City finalizes its budget directions at which point the Service will adjust its estimates. It typically falls between 1.4-1.8%.

The OPS stated that discussions are ongoing with the Federal government about possible funding increases however they are not budgeting for an increase as it has not received any confirmation of new money.

The Service noted that it usually increases its service fees by 2% every year which relates to the revenue line in the budget.

On the topic of community consultation, the Service noted that in addition to the survey, the Chief is meeting with City Councillors and is being invited to town halls. OPS members are also leveraging their networks to gather input.

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board's Finance and Audit Committee receive this presentation for information.**

Received

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 2023 - 1:00 PM