



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

**Meeting #:** 28  
**Date:** October 18, 2024  
**Time:** 10:00 am  
**Location:** Electronic Participation  
**Present:** Councillor Cathy Curry, Councillor Marty Carr, Dave Donaldson

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1. Confirmation of Agenda

**That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm the agenda of the 18 October 2024 meeting.**

**Carried**

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes #27 of 5 September 2024

**That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm Minutes #27 of the 5 September 2024 meeting.**

**Carried**

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

4. Items of Business

4.1 2025 Budget Consultation Summary Report

Presentation & Chief's report

A question was raised on how to measure a "progressive ward" and whether it was possible to define this clearly. It was noted that higher-income wards feel safer but exhibit lower levels of trust, while lower-income wards feel less safe but show higher levels of trust.

The rural community's confidence was a key point of discussion, with the Board agreeing that further sessions are needed to analyze data specific to rural areas, given that rural confidence is low. It was noted that the community policing model could be critical in improving confidence levels in these areas.

There was a request for ward-specific data, which OPS confirmed will be provided to city councilors when they will meet with them individually to assist in analyzing crime and service call trends. It was emphasized that ward-by-ward data is crucial for these discussions.

A question was raised about how data is weighted and whether comparable numbers of responses were collected across different wards. OPS clarified that Environics is responsible for data collection and analysis, using a combination of methodologies and multiple sources to ensure accurate and comprehensive results. It was further clarified that Environics collects and models data from over 80 partners, analyzing variables down to six-digit postal codes, which allows for a comprehensive understanding of ward-level dynamics. The City of Ottawa has access to over 40,000 variables for each postal code through Environics, enabling deep analysis of demographics, social values, and other attributes relevant to policing and community well-being. OPS will provide additional details on the methodologies used.

The Board acknowledged the efforts of the presenting team and the importance of community engagement in shaping policing strategies.

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

**Received**

#### 4.2 2025 Budget Directions and Timetable

##### Chief's report

A comment was made regarding the budget directions motion adopted by City Council, highlighting that under the Community Safety and Policing Act, it is the Police Service Board that holds the authority to issue budget directions to the Service. It was emphasized that the direction and decision on the budget estimates rests with the Police Service Board, not the city council.

A concern was raised with respect to the delay of the body-worn camera initiative to 2026. Additionally, concerns were raised about current overtime figures.

A question was asked about whether there were insights into how other services in Ontario were handling their budgets. OPS noted that larger police services in the Greater Toronto Area are seeing budget increases of around 10% and above. The Chief expects the average to be situated around 14%, based on recent discussions with other chiefs of police.

Ottawa's budget increase is comparatively lower, despite having larger responsibilities with regard to the funding of infrastructure – which, for other services, is often a shared responsibility with the municipality or the region.

Residents' desire for increased police presence was mentioned, along with inquiries about when the staffing stabilization strategy would address the issue. The stabilization plan spans from 2024 to 2026, and while the first year has shown positive results with four classes of recruits, the full benefits will be realized in 2026. Bargaining and retirements may affect the program's impact.

OPS was asked for additional background on the termination of the lease agreement with Algonquin College, which affects critical training facilities, including the firing range. OPS is attempting to extend the lease until a new firing range can be built, but alternatives are being explored as the construction of a new facility is costly and not currently in the budget.

In response to a question about south facility and if it will be affected by the current budget, OPS assured that no risks were associated with its progress. Land costs attributed by the City will be used to replenish capital reserves, reducing financial pressures in 2025.

**That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee receive this item for information and discussion, including the recommendation that will be put forward to the Ottawa Police Service Board at the October 28, 2024 meeting:**

**"That the Ottawa Police Service Board:**

- 1. Direct staff to prepare the 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets based on a tax increase of no less than 2.9% and an estimated 1.5% increase in taxes resulting from growth in assessment base.**
- 2. Approve the 2025 budget review and approval timetable."**

**Carried**

5. Other Business
6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 13, 2024 - 8:30 AM

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