



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

Meeting #: 30
Date: February 10, 2025
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: S. Fakirani, C. Curry, D. Donaldson

Absent: M. Carr

1. Confirmation of Agenda

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm the agenda of the 10 February 2025 meeting.

Carried

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes #29 of 22 November 2024

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm Minutes #29 of the 22 November 2024 meeting.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

4. Items of Business

4.1 2025 Internal Audit Plan

Presentation

The Committee discussed the goal of the ongoing audit by the Ottawa Auditor General (OAG) is to evaluate the Ottawa Police Service's (OPS) human resource processes, including recruitment, deployment, and retention, to determine how these affect the OPS's ability to meet service demands and to ensure adequate and effective policing.

The Service reported that the OAG is planning to report on audit findings in June, the work being done in January to April. They advised that they have been collaborating extensively with the OAG to avoid overlap in audits, reviewing the past 10 years of audits to ensure no duplication of efforts.

The Committee noted the proactive approach of the OAG in reporting issues as they arise to the City, rather than waiting until the end of the year. The Committee welcomed OPS' commitment to provide an update on Quality Assurance and audits as part of a standing item at each future Finance and Audit Committee meeting.

Recognizing the limited resources of the OPS Quality Assurance section, the Committee noted that the Auditor General could find its staffing inadequate. The Committee inquired whether any staffing recommendations could be addressed promptly or if they would need to wait until the next budget cycle for consideration and reporting. The Service explained that increasing staff involves a lengthy process, including securing funding, recruiting, hiring, and training. The Service advised that if the OAG confirms that more staffing is needed, they will have to wait until the next budget cycle to implement it. The Service

explained that they can request a budget adjustment to increase staffing, which would go from the Board to City council for approval. There are other mechanisms to temporarily address staffing needs, such as temporary assignments or over-hiring. However, the process is slow, and staffing changes likely would not take effect until the following budget year.

The Committee emphasized the importance of aligning internal audit priorities with the four pillars of the strategic plan and its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

The Committee asked why intimate partner violence and youth crime investigations were prioritized over other issues and suggested that the rationale for selecting these two topics should be explicitly explained when presenting to the Board. The Service confirmed that these themes were prioritized due to their significant impact on the community and service delivery, and their alignment with recommendations from both the Board and Executive Command that victim assistance – which is also a strategic priority – be prioritized. An assistance to victims lens will be applied to both audits.

The recommendation was amended with the Committee's approval.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee endorse the plan and forward it to the Ottawa Police Service Board with a recommendation for approval.

Carried as amended

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:41p.m