



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

Meeting #: 35
Date: November 21, 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: D. Donaldson, S. Desroches

Absent: C. Curry

Others: S. Fakirani, M. Carr, P. Henschel, Chief E. Stubbs, Deputy Chief S. Bell, Deputy Chief P. Burnett, H. Sayah, S. Yasseen, R. Ben Guedria, B. Mallon, S. Badaravada, B. Merklinger, J. Sweet, M. Anderson

1. Confirmation of Agenda

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm the agenda of the 21 November 2025 meeting.

Carried

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes #34 of 10 October 2025

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee confirm Minutes #34 of 10 October 2025 meeting.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

4. Items of Business

4.1 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets 2026: Delegations

[Draft budget available here](#)

Presentation

1) Sam Hersh

The Service commented that although \$2.7 million was removed from the budget, the money was redirected to various social agencies and not used to fund the Alternate Neighbourhood Crisis Response (ANCHOR) program. ANCHOR is funded separately through a three-year grant from the province submitted by the City and OPS.

2) Yukang Li

The Committee asked if the Chinatown businesses have indicated whether or not they feel safer with the SNAP Program. Y. Li confirmed that businesses and staff have responded that they feel safer.

The Committee asked if Y. Li is hearing from the community the need for more police presence and increased funding from the province to address social issues. Y. Li advised that the BIA Board discussed this at a recent Board meeting, concluding that the community will benefit

from more police presence. He advised that most police calls are answered promptly. However, there have been cases where response times were slow, leading to complaints. He noted that the community officer is responsible for a very large area, which is why the BIA is requesting additional police staffing for Centretown and Chinatown.

3) Hannah Crouse

4) Mackenzie Plumb

5) Robin Browne

The delegate was unable to join the meeting to provide his verbal delegation, however his written comments were shared with the Committee for review.

The Committee thanked all of the community delegates for sharing their perspective and emphasized the Board's duty to submit a budget that ensures the provision of adequate and effective policing. The Committee noted that delaying funding that would serve important needs could create larger risks and deficits in future years. It was noted that OPS' budget increases have lagged behind other major Ontario police services.

The Committee asked the Service which investments could not be accommodated within the budget direction and what are the short and long-term impacts of deferring them. The Committee also asked what technology-related pressures remain unfunded.

The Committee suggested that the Service develop a full digital policing strategy addressing multi-year funding requirements given the importance of data and technology for policing.

The Service noted that the original request for a 10.6% budget increase for 2026 was reduced by scaling back several plans. The 2026 budget is sufficient to maintain necessary policing services. However, the budget has significant long-term risks because several investments have been deferred to fit within the budget direction. The development of a four-year financial plan in 2026 will be critical to addressing these deferred needs. The main long-term concerns are the ongoing staff stabilization, deferred facility upgrades, funding for a training facility, and technology-related needs. T The Service advised that they will be assessing

technological needs in 2026 and will present clear recommendations to the Board.

The Committee asked if any 2025 crime trends show decreases in any of the various crime categories. The Service explained that the 2025 crime statistics are now being published, though they reflect only part of the year. Overall, previously identified crime trends remain elevated, with only a few improvements such as a decrease in auto theft.

The Committee asked if the budget request is expected to result in improvements in relation to some of the rising crime trends. The Service explained that for many years OPS has not kept pace with growing demands, complexity, and call volumes, and that the strain is now visible across multiple units. The digital forensics unit which covers internet child exploitation has over 1,800 files in its backlog, a staff of four and has not grown in 15 years. This is reflected across other units as well. The Committee noted that the average resident may not be aware of backlogs until they experience a crime and have to wait over two years for a resolution depending on the crime. It was noted that frontline staffing targets have also remained unchanged since the amalgamation. The Service advised that while modernization will take time, recent investments by the Board and other levels of government are moving OPS in the right direction.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Finance and Audit Committee receive the presentation and delegations for information and consideration.

Received

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

7. Next Meeting

To be determined.