



**Ottawa Police Service Board
Policy and Governance Committee
Minutes**

Meeting #: 25
Date: March 25, 2026
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Electronic Participation

Present: C. Curry, D. Donaldson (left at 2:30PM), M. Polowin

Also Present: S. Fakirani, M. Carr, P. Henschel

1. Confirmation of Agenda

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee confirm the agenda of the 25th March 2026 meeting.

Carried

2. Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Minutes #24 of 1st December 2025

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee confirm Minutes #24 of the 1st December 2025 meeting.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

4. Items of Business

4.1 Body Worn Camera Deployment

Chief's report

The Committee asked whether there was any evidence that body-worn cameras (BWCs) actually reduce use of force. The Committee also asked if adopting BWCs will lead to additional technology requirements to manage. The Service noted that the Axon BWC bundle is cutting-edge and unlikely to need upgrades soon. They noted that there is limited research on race-based impacts, and no clear evidence linking BWCs to a reduction in use of force against specific races, however, some jurisdictions have seen overall reductions in use-of-force incidents. It was noted that Ottawa already has very low use-of-force rates, so a significant decrease there is unlikely.

The Committee asked if the efficiencies described would lead to reduced hiring needs or simply allow officers to be more effective in their roles. The Service advised that time saved by officers is translated into increased capacity to respond to more calls and improve response times.

It was discussed that AI-generated reports currently have a 30% edit requirement as a safeguard to ensure officers review and validate the content before submission. This percentage can be adjusted if needed.

The Committee asked if the Crown is accepting AI-generated reports noting that a lot of judges are skeptical of AI. The Service reported that they have consulted extensively with the Crown and prosecutors support its use and believe its reception in court will be favourable.

ACTION: The Service noted that they plan to have an OPS AI policy approved in April 2026. The Committee asked for the policy to be shared

prior to the Board voting on the BWCs item. The Committee suggested that when the item goes to the Board for approval, the report should include the Crown's position. The Committee also asked for an updated privacy impact assessment in a report at a future meeting.

The Service confirmed that officers and Supervisors have to sign off on AI reports to verify accuracy.

The Committee asked for an update on the privacy impact assessment and asked whether there has been consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario. The Service confirmed that a privacy impact assessment was completed when implementing DEIMS, which recommended integrating BWCs into that system to ensure data security. Insights from other police services' privacy assessments have been incorporated, and all known privacy concerns have been addressed.

The Committee raised concerns about data storage, access, and long-term control and asked whether information could be accessed by the U.S. government due to Axon being a U.S.-based company. The Committee also asked what happens to the data if OPS switches providers in the future. The Service advised that all data is hosted in Canada. It was noted that while other companies exist, Axon is currently the most reliable and effective and switching providers later could be costly. The Service will look at the Axon contract to analyze the 'out clause', and how much it may cost and how data will be recovered.

The Committee inquired about the Service's intention to use Palantir software, which was referenced in the 2026 budget document. The Service responded that there are not pathways to procure Palantir technology at the moment.

The Committee noted that \$1.6 million has been allocated for 2026, but the remainder of the funding request has not yet been included in future budgets. It is important for the Board and the Finance and Audit Committee to understand the full financial implications and whether it covers just the \$1.6 million one-year term or a larger amount. The Service confirmed that the full financial details and the contract will be included in a future report along with multi-year planning since there is no one time cost for technology like this.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee:

- 1. receive this report for information.**
- 2. endorse the continuation of work required to expand the use of Body-Worn Cameras with AI Era Bundle through 2026 and 2027.**

Carried

4.2 Mental Health Change Initiative -1st Quarter 2026 update

Chief's report

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee receive this report for information.

Received

4.3 Artificial Intelligence Usage at the Ottawa Police Service

Presentation

The Committee asked if any consultation has been done on the policy and if the Board's policy will be approved first. The Service advised that they have not done extensive consultations, but they are working on a plan to combine consultation efforts with the Board's. The immediate goal is to put a policy framework in place first and at the same time, they are developing a communications and consultation plan to ensure meaningful public input. The Service foresees that consultations will be ongoing depending on the nature and impact of each new technology.

The Committee asked if there is a category of AI that OPS will not use under any circumstance. The Service advised that the assessment process will identify what technologies will and will not be used.

The Service confirmed that they have reviewed the Clearview AI decisions which address facial recognition from Alberta and British Columbia.

The Committee asked if the policy was reviewed with all of the legal authorities in mind such as the CSPA, the Charter etc. The Service advised that the policy is currently under legal review to ensure it covers

all necessary authorities. It is designed to adapt to evolving technologies, including ones not yet anticipated.

ACTION: The Committee asked for information on how OPS is using AI at the moment. The Service advised that they will provide the Board with this information.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee receive this presentation for information.

Received

4.4 Policy on The Use of Board Resources for Election Purposes

Executive Directors' report

This item was deferred due to loss of quorum to the April 27th 2026 Board meeting.

That the Ottawa Police Service Board's Policy and Governance Committee recommend that the Board approve the attached policy, subject to substituting section 3.4 with the following: "Neither a Candidate nor an Employee shall knowingly arrange, participate in, or facilitate the taking of photographs or video of a Candidate with an Employee who is on duty or in uniform, where the photograph or video is intended for, or is reasonably likely to be used in, Campaign Materials."

Deferred

5. Other Business

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 pm.

7. Next Meeting

Monday, May 21st, 2026 - 10:00 AM

DRAFT