

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD  
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

**25 June 2018 / 25 juin 2018**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:**

**Chief of Police, Ottawa Police Service / Chef de police, Service de police d'Ottawa**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:**

**Debra Frazer, Director General/ Directrice générale**

***Frazerd@ottawapolice.ca***

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL FUNDING TO REDUCE GUN CRIME AND CRIMINAL GANG  
ACTIVITIES**

**OBJET: FINANCEMENT FÉDÉRAL POUR LUTTER CONTRE LA VIOLENCE  
ARMÉE ET LES ACTIVITÉS DES GANGS CRIMINELS**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Ottawa Police Services Board:**

- 1. Approve an increase of the OPS staff complement by 10 sworn officers and the accompanying budget pressure on the 2018 budget detailed in this report;**
- 2. Direct the Executive Director to forward the report to City Council for approval.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa :**

- 1. approuve l'ajout de dix policiers assermentés à l'effectif du SPO et la pression budgétaire en conséquence dans le budget de 2018, comme l'énonce le présent rapport;**
- 2. demande au directeur exécutif de soumettre le rapport à l'approbation du Conseil municipal.**

## **BACKGROUND**

In November of 2017, the federal government announced it would be committing \$327.6 million over five years, and \$100 million annually thereafter, to help support a variety of initiatives to reduce gun crime and criminal gang activities. The funding is meant to help communities deal with the rise in gun and gang violence being seen across Canada.

In anticipation of that funding, the purpose of this report is to request the Board increase the OPS staff complement by 10 officers beginning October 2018. The increase is being sought to deal with increasing gun violence being seen in Ottawa and to take full advantage of future federal funding of gun and criminal gang violence initiatives.

## **DISCUSSION**

Ottawa, like cities across Canada, has continued to see an increase in gun violence and shootings over the last several years. Several strategies have been put in place to stem the increase including a community based guns and gangs strategy that leverages the efforts of stakeholders and community groups as well as increased police enforcement.

OPS has made preventing and suppressing gun violence an organizational priority and officers across the service including Frontline officers, Drugs, Street Crime, DART and Guns and Gangs have been leading efforts to hold offenders accountable. Resources have been realigned to meet the current need. While these efforts have met with success it is clear that gun violence is an increasing and disturbing trend that requires more stable policing resources if our successes are to be sustained and increased.

The federal government hosted a Summit on Criminal Guns and Gangs in March of this year that the Chief attended along with the Chair, Mayor, and many other experts, practitioners, front-line personnel, and decision makers. It was at that meeting that the federal government announced it would be committing \$327.6 million over five years, and \$100 million annually thereafter, to help support a variety of initiatives to reduce gun crime and criminal gang activities.

While the final details on how the funding will be administered are still being determined, it is understood that it will be long term, stable and predictable. The funds are expected to be available in April 2019. We also understand the funding formula will be based on population and crime rate, adding more certainty to the funds we could expect to receive.

Instead of waiting until next April, OPS is seeking to hire 10 additional officers this year. The total new pressure for the 2018 budget would be \$435,000 plus \$225,000 in costs related to equipment including vehicles, mobile data terminals. (See Financial Implications section for more details).

If approved by the Board, those positions will be assigned directly to addressing gun violence. The Deputy Chief of Investigations and Support has developed a plan to distribute these resources to the investigative and suppression units within the Guns and Gangs section.

These officers would assist with conducting shooting investigations, proactive covert investigations into people and groups involved in shootings, and community based enforcement/suppression initiatives with a focus on prevention and intervention activities.

Hiring these 10 officers will reinforce our efforts to deal with the increase in shootings and gun violence we are seeing.

In order to ensure these officers are road-ready and able to begin their duties as quickly as possible the Service will hire Direct Entry Officers.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Total funding of \$1.1 million is required for this initiative to bridge the gap until the anticipated grant funding begins in April 2019:

- 2018 Oct - Dec: Staffing cost - \$435 thousand
- 2018 one-time cost: Vehicles and mobile data terminals - \$225 thousand
- 2019 Jan - Mar: Staffing cost - \$435 thousand

In 2018 the 10 officers and their equipment will create a budget pressure of \$660 thousand. In the first quarter Financial Report staff had forecasted a deficit for the end of 2018, which we are working to address. The hiring of these ten officers will add to that pressure in 2018. Staff will incorporate this pressure into the Second Quarter Financial report to provide the Board with a comprehensive view of the projected financial position to year end.

In 2019 a budget pressure of \$435 thousand will be created, representing the unfunded portion of the initiative until April 2019. Since the federal funding is annual, the ongoing costs of the increased complement would be covered starting in Q2 2019 and beyond.

While the funding is expected to be long term, stable and predictable, should Ottawa not receive the money to cover these additional resources, future staffing plans can be adjusted to compensate.

Along with the three-year, 75 officer hiring plan OPS is completing this year to increase the sworn officers in the service, this additional 10 would bring the number of sworn

officers to 1,409. The three year forecast calls for the hiring of 30 new officers every year between 2019 to 2021.

## **CONCLUSION**

The issue of gun violence is affecting major urban centres across Canada. It is important that the Service is resourced to meet the challenges of the new trend in gun violence in our city. The opportunity of new federal funding provides Ottawa with the opportunity to bring on new resources this year to assist in meeting those challenging and reinforcing gun violence suppression strategies.