

# HALIFAX

## **Development of Budget and Approval Process for Halifax Regional Police as it Relates to RCMP Inputs**

Board of Police Commissioners

2022-11-02

# Origin

At the April 5, 2022, session of Regional Council, Council members unanimously passed two motions put forward by the Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) that:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report for the purpose of developing an operational and capital budget review and approval process for the Halifax Regional Police, including public consultation and associated timelines, for the 2023/24 fiscal year in compliance with the Police Act.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report regarding the Board's jurisdiction under the Police Act, including as it relates to the review and approval of the annual Halifax Regional Police budget proposal under Section 53 of the Police Act.

# Current Process (HRP Budget)

- Council can be presented with a budget recommended by the BoPC with increases based largely on staffing increments without Council having considered the issue of the staffing composition.
- Council's only option under Police Commission Bylaw P-100 is to approve or reject the budget on a global basis; it must send the budget back to the BoPC if it does not agree with the proposed amount.
- The process results in unclear direction from Council to BoPC.

# Current Budget Process (RCMP)

- CFO meets with Department of Justice (DoJ) / RCMP to discuss budgetary pressures.
- RCMP business plan presented to BoPC (does not include budget).
- RCMP and DoJ present budget to Budget Committee.
- Council should have a direct role in determining the number of officers and supporting staff for the Halifax District, with the consequential budgetary implications (Police Commission By-Law 100 Section 8 (3)(e)).

# HRP / RCMP Budget Approval Process Changes

On October 18, 2022 Regional Council received an [Information Report](#) outlining an operational and capital budget review and approval process for Halifax Regional Police, including the Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) jurisdiction as it relates to the review and approval of the HRP budget.

The report includes a proposed two-step process to facilitate the approval of staffing and budget decisions related to the HRP budget:

1. Submission of a staffing proposal for HRP to BoPC. This proposal then submitted by BoPC to Council for a decision.
2. Preparation of HRP budget based on approved staffing decision for review by BoPC, and submission to Council.

# HRP / RCMP Budget Approval Process Changes

- The proposed process / schedule accommodates two meetings of HRP and Regional Council, each preceded by a Board of Police Commissioners meeting.
- The HRP operating budget presentation to BoPC will include a capital overview.
- A similar process could be followed for the RCMP, as outlined in the October 18, 2022 Information Report to Regional Council.

# Benefits of Proposed Approach

- Reduces the potential for confusion – allows Regional Council to be clear on direction to both the Board and to HRP.
- Reduces the likelihood of the budget being returned to the Board.

# 2023/24 Key Dates

**November 25, 2022** – Fiscal Direction – Regional Council gives staff direction to build the budget.

**December 7, 2022** – HRP presents business plan to Board of Police Commissioners / RCMP could also present – for informational purposes.

**February 1, 2023** – HRP Budget & Business Plan presentation to Budget Committee / RCMP Business Plan presentation to Budget Committee.

**March 3, 2023** – HRP / RCMP Budget & Business Plan presentation to Budget Committee (if required).