



Item No. 10.2.4

Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality May 7, 2025

TO: Chair O'Malley and Commissioners of the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: May 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Armoured Rescue Vehicle Policy

ORIGIN

This is a staff initiated report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners for the Halifax Regional Municipality adopt in principle, subject to a period of public comment, the policy entitled Armoured Rescue Vehicle, for inclusion in the Board of Police Commissioners' Policy Manual, as outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

Regional Council approved the procurement of an armoured rescue vehicle (ARV) as a part of its 2025-2026 capital budget

DISCUSSION

During budget deliberations, Commissioners and Regional Councillors expressed the importance of adopting an ARV policy prior to its deployment.

This attached policy ensures the ARV is used responsibly, with oversight, proper training, and regular maintenance to support effective and safe law enforcement operations. Specifically, the recommended board policy provides direction to the Chief to produce an HRP policy with respect to the use of an ARV that ensures the following:

- The approval and oversight of a qualified Critical Incident Commander is required for the operational deployment of the ARV;
- A list is created of approved and non-approved uses for the ARV;
- Operators successfully complete an ARV operator qualification program;
- The creation of a process to determine whether requests for use of the ARV by other police services will be considered;
- The regular inspection and maintenance of the ARV; and
- The safe storage of the ARV.

The proposed policy also outlines biannual reporting requirements for the Chief.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any future financial implications arising from implementation of the recommendations will be addressed in staff reports and HRM departmental budgets as required.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Police Commissioners is comprised of four citizen members and three Councillors. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Board are posted on Halifax.ca. Staff are recommending that the proposed policy be posted on the BoPC's website for a period of public comment.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Police Act 2004 section 55 states:

The function of a board is to provide

...

(b) the administrative direction, organization and policy required to maintain an adequate, effective and efficient police department

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Armoured Rescue Vehicle

Report Prepared by: Joshua Bates, Policing Policy Strategist, Office of the Public Safety Commissioner, 902-478-2032

Armoured Rescue Vehicle

Original Implementation Date		Approved by	
Date of Last Revision		Approved by	
Effective Date of Last Revision		Approved by	

1 - Title

Armoured Rescue Vehicle

2 - Purpose

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners is committed to overseeing the delivery of fair, effective, efficient, equitable and accountable policing services in keeping with community values, needs, and expectations of all community members.

3 – Scope

This policy applies to all sworn and unsworn members of HRP as outlined in the Department Order #: 04-09 and to the Chief of HRP.

4 - Definitions

In the context of this document:

Police Act means the *Police Act*, S.N.S. 2004, c. 31 as amended

Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) means a specialized, heavily fortified vehicle used by law enforcement agencies to safely transport personnel, evacuate injured or endangered individuals, and respond to high-risk incidents such as active shooter situations, hostage rescues, or other similar incidents. Designed to provide ballistic protection and withstand hostile environments, an ARV is typically equipped with reinforced armor, bullet-resistant glass, tactical communication systems, and may include medical or extraction tools to support rescue and tactical operations.

Board means the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Chair means Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

Chief of Police means the Chief of Halifax Regional Police

Chief Superintendent means the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP, Halifax District

Chiefs means the Chief of Police of HRP and the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP

Council means Halifax Regional Council

HRM means the Halifax Regional Municipality

HRP means the Halifax Regional Police

Legislative Assistant means representative of the Municipal Clerk's Office

Member(s) means a member of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

RCMP means the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax District

5 - Distribution

Policies may be distributed to all Board of Police Commissioners, CAO, Municipal Clerk, HRM Councillors, the Chiefs and their respective departments, Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance and posted on HRM website with link to HRP website. This list may be expanded as required.

6 - Roles and Responsibilities

General

- 6.1 The chief officer shall establish a policy with respect to the Halifax Regional Police's use of an Armoured Rescue Vehicle. This policy shall align with the mission, vision and values, as outlined in HRP's Strategic Plan, and the Principles of Policing, as outlined in the Police Board By-law.
- 6.2 The chief officer shall ensure that the ARV is only used when necessary to ensure the safety of the public and sworn members.

Deployment

- 6.3 The chief officer shall ensure that the operational deployment of the ARV requires the approval and oversight of a qualified Critical Incident Commander. Any request for deployment shall include the date, time, location, and reason for the deployment.
- 6.4 The chief officer shall ensure the ARV is operated with a duty of care to the general public.

Approved Uses

- 6.5 The chief officer shall ensure that a list is created of approved and non-approved uses for the ARV.

Training

- 6.6 The chief officer shall ensure authorized ARV operators successfully complete an approved ARV operator qualification program. To maintain valid ARV operator qualification, all authorized ARV operators must participate in regular training and exercising to ensure proficiency in ARV

operations. This training shall include regular training and exercising with the RCMP to ensure effective interoperability between the HRP and RCMP.

Use by Other Police Services

- 6.7 The chief officer shall ensure that the policy includes a process to determine whether requests for use of the ARV by other police services will be considered, and if so, under what conditions such requests will be accepted.

Maintenance and Storage

- 6.8 The chief officer shall ensure that the ARV is regularly inspected and maintained to ensure it is in proper working condition. Any issues shall be reported and addressed promptly.
- 6.9 The chief officer shall, where possible, ensure that planned scheduled maintenance of the ARV does not conflict with planned, scheduled maintenance of the RCMP Tactical Armoured Vehicle.
- 6.10 The chief officer shall ensure the ARV is stored in an access controlled, secure location that protects the structural integrity of the ARV platform to optimize ARV operational response and readiness.

Reporting Requirements

- 6.11 The chief officer shall report biannually to the board the following information:
- a. The total number of deployments since the last reporting period;
 - b. The location, rationale, and outcome of each deployment; and
 - c. Any use of the ARV that does not comply with the principles set out in this policy or any related policy established by the chief officer.

7 - Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed every four years and when the Act is amended.

8 - Contact

Office of the Municipal Clerk

9 - References

None