



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO
DATE: 13/07/2016
SUBJECT: OPP Costing Process
ATTACHMENTS: none

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the report of the CAO regarding the OPP costing process for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT Chief of Police Tim Poole is instructed to defer the expanded costing for the Wingham Police Service to provide police service to Blyth and East Wawanosh until further direction is provided by Council.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An introductory meeting of the OPP Costing Steering Committee was held on May 26, 2016, with representatives of the OPP present to provide an overview of the OPP Costing process.

Attending on behalf of the OPP were; Sergeant Kevin Hummell, Superintendent Marc Bedard, Municipal Policing Bureau, Inspector Bert McDonald, MPB, Inspector Tim Clark, West Region representative, Business and Finance, Staff Sergeant Liane Spong-Hooyenga, MPB.

Municipal and Wingham Police Service Representatives in attendance were; Tim Poole Chief of Police, Constable Wade Smith, Wingham Police Association, Reeve Neil Vincent, North Huron Police Board Chair Trevor Seip, North Huron Police Board Vice Chair Bill Gregoriadis, CAO Sharon Chambers, Clerk Kathy Adams.

The presentation covered the three step process involved with obtaining an OPP Municipal Contract Proposal.

The process provides generous timelines, however the timelines must be adhered to or the Township will lose its place in the queue. The CAO and members of the committee were encouraged to speak to the CAO's of other municipalities who have been through an amalgamation process.

Communication with the public is an important part of the process and the OPP and will monitor local media and blogs to ensure that information being reported is accurate.

In 2015, Council directed Wingham Police Chief Poole to prepare a costing for WPS to extend services to Blyth and East Wawanosh. The OPP has indicated that they cannot proceed with a Municipal Contract Proposal when the Township is simultaneously costing other policing options. A motion to defer the WPS expanded service area costing is required until the completion of the OPP costing process.

Interest has been expressed among the County CAO group to investigate a Countywide OPP Policing Contract, however the existence of the Wingham Police Service is seen as a barrier to a Countywide policing arrangement. The group is awaiting the results of the OPP costing process in North Huron before pursuing further discussion on this matter.

DISCUSSION

Municipal requests for costing proposals are prioritized and municipalities are placed in the queue based on the date of their request to the Minister. The OPP uses an annual cycle to determine the number of amalgamations that can be accommodated within their capacity constraints.

The three-step OPP Municipal Contract Proposal process must be completed within prescribed timelines to avoid falling to the bottom of the queue.

Step 1 – Capacity Assessment and Municipal Profile – July to October 2016

North Huron is currently in Step 1 of the process. The Township must provide the OPP with information and data so that the existing municipal police service can be assessed to determine OPP capacity requirements relating to infrastructure, equipment, supervisory, administrative and support service and other special or unique requirements (such as court security).

- The OPP Municipal Profile must be completed within 3 months, once provided. The Municipal Profile form was provided on July 12th and will be due on October 12th. The Profile form has been forwarded to Chief Poole for completion.
- An OPP site visit of the Municipal facility will be conducted during this step, and has yet to be arranged.
- A Government Mobile Communication Branch/Bell Mobility Radio (GMCB/BMR) assessment is required to identify the current network capacity limitations for the OPP to amalgamate the municipality.

Step 2 – Development of Contract Proposal – November 2016 to August 2017

- The OPP will conduct a data assessment including workload assessment, analysis of deployment issues, community consultation and needs analysis, and identification of any required accommodations, resources and services to ensure adequacy standards are met.
- The OPP will prepare a contract Proposal that includes staffing, OPP services, facilities assessment results, costing summary and start-up costs. One or more options may be presented for consideration.
- The Municipality has six months after delivery of the proposal to reach a decision. (acceptance is confirmed by by-law)

Step 3 – Municipal Amalgamation -2018

- Step 3 only occurs if the Municipality accepts the OPP's proposal.
- If the Township accepts the proposal, they must apply to the Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCP) to disband the Wingham Police Service under Section 40 of the PSA. The Township would be required to supply the OCP with sufficient information to ensure that the abolition of the Wingham Police Service will not contravene the PSA and that severance conditions have been complied with. An OCP Public Hearing will be held in the community to consider the abolition request. Notice of the hearing is given to the public, municipality, Police Services Board, Chief of Police, the local Police Association, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, the Commissioner of the OPP and other stakeholders.

- If the OCPC approves the disbandment of the Wingham Police Service, the Township would enter into Transitional Agreement for a defined number of contractual hours of service as represented by uniform Full Time Equivalents (FTE), plus civilian FTE's.
- The transition phase will include establishment of a transition team who will be responsible for ensuring provisions are put in place for business continuity throughout the transition from the Municipal Police Service to the OPP. This will include establishing the required infrastructure, equipment, technology, hiring of officers and orientation training.
- After 3 years (plus the number of days to extend to a December 31st expiry date), the Township would transition to a contract costed according to the OPP Billing Model. During the transition period, the OPP will be collecting Daily Activity Reporting (DAR) Data to record the duration and location of calls for service. This data will be applied to the OPP Billing Model after the completion of the transition period. The Township will have the option to receive policing services either under a Section 10 Police Services Act (PSA) contract or a Section 5.1 PSA non-contract policing arrangement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

A detailed analysis of policing options will be conducted upon receipt of the OPP Costing Proposal

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Council and the community will have to consider level of service expectations for community policing in conjunction with the financial analysis of policing options.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL # 4 - Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence

Outcome: We control costs and keep our tax levels competitive.

Actions:

- Identify and implement cost savings and efficiencies through the Program and Expenditure Review.



Sharon Chambers, CAO