

To: Chair and Members of the Wellington County O.P.P. Detachment Board

From: Ken DeHart, County Treasurer

Date: Wednesday, October 09, 2024

Subject: 2025 O.P.P. Billing Package and 2023 Year-End Reconciliation

Background:

The attached correspondence from the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau outlines the 2025 Annual Billing Statement package along with the annual cost reconciliation for the 2023 year-end.

2025 O.P.P. Billing Package and Budget Estimates

The 2025 Annual Billing Statement estimates the cost of the O.P.P. contract at \$20,375,886. This represents an overall cost increase per property of \$54.87 or 12.8% over the 2024 Billing Statement. The County received notice in the summer that the Ontario Provincial Police Association and the Provincial Government had ratified new uniform and civilian collective agreements in effect for the term January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026 (four-year term agreements). The new agreements included general salary year-over-year rate increases of 4.75% (2023), 4.5% (2024), and 2.75% (2025 and 2026). Additionally, effective September 1, 2024, many O.P.P. detachment front-line constables and sergeants will be receiving an additional 3% front-line patrol premium.

The new O.P.P. billing estimate represents an increase of \$2.5 million over 2024. That is significantly higher than the County had forecasted in the 10-Year Plan. The County had projected a contract estimate of just under \$18.3 million in 2025. The new estimate is \$2.1 million higher than last year's projection. It appears that previous contract estimates provided to the County by the O.P.P. Municipal Policing Bureau did not include allowances for collective agreement increases in 2023 and 2024. The increase in the O.P.P. contract will add approximately 2.0% to the County tax levy, which is 1.7% higher than previously projected.

2023 Year-End Reconciliation

The year-end reconciliation for 2023 results in a total year-end adjustment (savings) of \$188,571. In addition, it is noted in the package that "Discrepancies were discovered during an audit of grant-related invoicing. This will result in a credit to Wellington County in the amount of \$100,920,30, which will be issued in January 2025." Between the 2023 year-end reconciliation and the audit discrepancy, this will result in credits of \$289,491.30. This amount compares unfavourably to the \$450,000 budgeted adjustment included in the O.P.P. contract line in the 2024 County budget. Note that this is the first time that the annual reconciliation came in lower than the budgeted estimate. The province proposes that these reconciliations be included as adjustments to the amount being billed in 2025. However, as was the case in previous years, the County will need to accrue these savings to 2024 and set the amount up as a receivable.

The total 2025 OPP contract cost budget will be set to cover the \$20,375,886, which is made up of costs for the base service, calls for service, plus overtime, contract enhancements and prisoner transportation costs. Any additional enhancements to officer complement would need to be added to this figure in the County budget.

Strategic Action Plan:

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

• Doing what the County does best – Providing Critical Daily Services for your residents

Recommendation:

That the County Treasurer's report regarding the 2025 O.P.P. Billing Package and 2023 Year-End Reconciliation be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA County Treasurer