

# THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** October 3, 2023  
**TO:** Committee of the Whole  
**FROM:** **Mike Williams**, Director of Protective Services  
**SUBJECT:** **Information Report – Community Safety & Well-being and Policing**

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### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Council accept this staff report as information in response to Mayor Lowry's motion of June 20, 2023.**

### BACKGROUND:

At the June 20, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting Mayor Lowry introduced a verbal notice of motion. Members debated and moved the motion as it was tabled with the additional request that data from speed monitoring tools that the Municipality deploys to capture traffic data also be incorporated in the information brought back to Committee of the Whole.

CW177-23

Moved: Mayor Lowry

Seconded: Councillor Torrance

**WHEREAS** residents in Mississippi Mills have conveyed concerns regarding recent break-ins, petty crime and crimes of opportunity; and

**WHEREAS** community safety is multi-layered and includes not only policing but also prevention measures, youth programming, mental health support and more; and

**WHEREAS** the municipality manages the policing contract; and

**WHEREAS** the municipality is conducting community engagement activities to solicit feedback from residents; and

**WHEREAS** the Municipality, Mayor and Council cannot direct the police or operations of the police;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** staff be directed to publish historical and current Mississippi Mills policing data on the website;

**AND THAT** staff be directed to provide a report or reports to Committee of the Whole including the following:

1. An update with regards to the Lanark County Police Services Board restructuring and anticipated timelines.

2. An update regarding the Lanark County OPP space needs and requirements for a secondary detachment in North Lanark.
3. An update on planned engagement activities on the topic of community safety and well being.
4. Comparison data for communities who use OPP contracts vs municipally-operated police services. Data to include:
  - o Cost of service
  - o Services provided
  - o Population and areas covered
  - o Incident data including Crime Severity Index trends

**AND FUTHERMORE**, at its June 27th Strategic Planning session that Committee of the Whole consider possible Community Safety & Well Being engagement strategies that could include the following elements:

- Relevant areas from Lanark County Community Safety & Well Being Plan
- Municipal Drug Strategy
- Planet Youth & Youth Centre
- Health Unit Liaison
- ByLaw Enforcement
- Traffic Calming
- Policing Data and Police Liaison

Result: CARRIED

STAFF DIRECTION: include data from black cats

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Information in response to the Council motion has been structured in the order in which the original motion requested the information.

### **Action Item:**

**Staff be directed to publish historical and current Mississippi Mills policing data on the website**

The available statistics for 2023 (Q1 and Q2) have been posted, we are waiting for statistics from 2022 and 2021. A request to the OPP has been made.

### **Lanark County Police Services Board Restructuring:**

It is anticipated that Police Services Boards (PSB) will become operational as of April 1, 2024 when the Community Safety Policing Act is in effect. Each municipality has received confirmation of its PSB. There will be one PSB for Lanark County. The Chair of OAPSB Zone 2 is encouraging municipalities to start thinking about their board membership.

Under the CSPA, members of policing boards and committees will be required to successfully complete training approved by the Solicitor General on “the roles of police services boards and the responsibilities of its members” that need to be successfully completed by members prior to the CSPA coming into force. This will be mandatory in order to be a member.

There is a conference planned for October 2023 and February 2024.

### **Lanark County OPP Space Needs**

The OPP members that serve the residents of Mississippi Mills continue to have access to administrative space, washrooms and kitchen facilities at the fire hall located in Almonte. This arrangement has been in place for a number of years even though there is no requirement under the contract for the Municipality to provide these facilities. Currently, the relocation of the Lanark County Paramedics service to the Almonte fire hall has created additional pressure on this space; however, it is still available. Staff are working with the County on the temporary use of the Almonte fire hall by Paramedics Services. In addition, staff are working on additional office space in Almonte for use by the OPP members.

At the Lanark County CAO’s meeting scheduled for September 15, 2023 the topic of the OPP detachment needs will be discussed. Invitations to the meeting were extended to the following:

- Representatives of the Lanark County OPP Detachment (Inspector Padiachi and Staff Sgt Tawdrous),
- Staff from Infrastructure Ontario were requested to present on the three financing options available through Infrastructure Ontario,
- Representative from the Solicitor General’s Office who supports the Lanark County Police Service Board has been invited and was aware of the meeting.
- Representatives of the OPP Police Bureau who will provide information on timing of detachment operation need, specifications and process for selection were invited.

On September 15, 2023 the Lanark County CAO’s met and were provided with information pertaining to the development of a new facility to replace the current Carleton Place OPP facility. Inspector Padiachi, Detachment Commander, attended the meeting and stated that there is a need to start planning for a new facility for the north eastern portion of Lanark County as the Carleton Place facility no longer meets the needs of the OPP. Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives of the OPP Police Bureau and Infrastructure Ontario. No location has been identified by the OPP other than somewhere in Beckwith, Carleton Place or Mississippi Mills. The preference seems to be that the three municipalities reach an agreement on proposed site(s) and then submit those to the OPP Police Bureau for evaluation. There are three models for development:

1. Land contribution
2. Lease base building

3. Turnkey (municipality owns land, constructs facility to OPP specification and lease building back to OPP with Infrastructure Ontario financing to construct the building) PREFERRED.

Ken Kelly, CAO Mississippi Mills who initiated the meeting with the OPP and Infrastructure Ontario representatives to provide information to Beckwith and Carleton Place and start discussing with regards to a municipal partnership resolution to be submitted.

### Planned Engagement Activities – Community Safety and Well Being

As for the community consultation, staff will include options in the forthcoming community engagement strategy report to include major themes (likely tied to the strategic plan themes) to consult on throughout the year and can kick it off with consultation and community safety and wellbeing.

Stephanie Gray was invited to attend Council and provide information on the Lanark County Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.

### Comparison of Data for Municipal police Services versus OPP Service Provision

There are a number of municipalities that have established their own municipal police services. Data on the cost of these services was gathered from the Provincial Financial Information Reporting (FIR). Each municipality is required to submit its FIR data on an annual basis. The year 2021 was chosen for comparison because it was the most recent year in which the most municipalities had submitted data.

2021 Financial Information Returns						
	Smith Falls	Port Hope	Cobourg	Deep River	Saugeen Shores	Brockville
Police Services	\$5,193,660	\$5,813,731	\$8,276,015	\$1,772,038	\$5,233,960	\$10,720,869
Households	4,416	7,607	9,135	2,010	8,442	10,889
Population	9,254	17,294	20,519	4,175	15,908	22,293
Youth	510	798	2,535	675	831	2,660
Per HH	\$1,176	\$764	\$906	\$882	\$620	\$985
Per Capita	\$561	\$336	\$403	\$424	\$329	\$481
Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index 2021						
	128.62	34.24	67.36	35.16	60.59	92.73
Note FIR data includes Salaries, Debt, Rents, Amortization, Program Support and other expenses						

The Ontario Provincial Police is a contract police service that covers all of the municipalities in Lanark County. While Drummond-North Elmsley (DNE) and Mississippi Mills (MM) are the only Section 5.1 contracts and the others are Section 10 contracts the base service and the calls per service are all billed at the same rates. There is no difference in the cost. Some municipalities may have contracted for

enhanced services. The cost of these enhancements is not known. The only costs published by the OPP are the full costs of the contract as per the table below.

2021 Lanark County Municipalities OPP Contract Data								
	Beckwith	Carleton Place	DNE	Lanark H	MM	Montague	Perth	Tay Valley
Cost	\$967,871	\$2,431,483	\$1,115,727	\$1,076,984	\$1,948,643	\$541,091	\$1,739,524	\$1,049,573
Property Count	3464	4977	3906	3945	6225	1647	3494	4074
Per Property	\$279	\$489	\$286	\$273	\$313	\$329	\$498	\$258
Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index 2021								
	14.5	42.57	23.67	43.1	21.12	26.45	54.96	35.35

In addition, a discussion with OPP Municipal Policing Bureau to understand the OPP services that are included in the Mississippi Mills. The most important aspects of the conversation were the following:

- When the *Community Safety Policing Act, 2019* (CPSA) comes into effect, it will repeal and replace the current Police Service Act and eliminate the distinction between the existing s10 and s5.1 contract agreements. All municipalities will have the option to consider agreements for enhanced or additional services. Policing services will continue uninterrupted. We await an announcement about the CSPSA implementation date; the last Ministry update indicated an implementation window of Fall 2023 to Spring 2024.
- Contract enhancements are available to municipalities with s10 policing arrangements. Enhancements are typically for a dedicated position to perform a function that is over and above the OPP’s existing level of adequate and effective policing. That said, there is currently a moratorium on uniform enhancement positions; civilian enhancements (including special constables) remain available through consultation with your Detachment Commander.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report is for information purposes only and no request for funding or approval of expenditures will result from this report.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This report provides information for Council members to discuss and provide direction to staff. This has direct implications on the principle “Safe and Sustainable” and the priority to implement local actions to support the Lanark County Community Safety and Well Being Plan.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Additional public engagement activities will be implemented based on the direction provided by Council.

**SUMMARY:**

This report is presented as information for Council consideration.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

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Mike Williams,  
Director of Protective Services

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Ken T. Kelly,  
Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Summary of Black Cat Data (Speed Monitoring on certain streets)