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STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Enforcement Services Bike Patrol Unit Business Case Study

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on Peace Officer Bike Patrol Unit

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

RCMP & Enforcement Services conducted a feasibility study into the implementation of a Peace Officer Bike Patrol. To properly implement a bike patrol unit here in Strathcona County would require peace officers to be outfitted with bikes, proper equipment and training. The cost for the required equipment and training has been estimated at \$25,000. The feasibility study determined that two peace officers per shift would be required to work in tandem for officer safety reasons.

Within our present service delivery model, our peace officers respond to an average of 35 to 40 calls per day while conducting 30 to 40 pro-active patrols as part of the crime reduction strategy. Our officers receive several calls for service on trails and parks such as the Heritage Wetlands Park, Broadmoor Golf Course and Strathcona Athletics Park. At this time, our officers answer each call based on their availability and ability to reach the location in a timely manner. Conversation with our analysts suggest that there is no pattern of repeat calls for service in our park areas, and due to limitation in the record management system, it is very difficult to isolate the park systems to determine an exact count for calls for service in the park and trail system. Presently there are staffing challenges with the RCMP which has placed additional pressures on Enforcement Services with Traffic Enforcement.

The study determined the demands of our peace officer program would be impacted greatly with the introduction of a bike patrol unit. The main focus of our peace officers is traffic safety, responding to calls for service related to municipal/provincial legislation and proactive patrols. Peace officers would have to be reallocated to the bike patrol unit from these three important roles. Calls for service would take longer response times, the level of traffic safety may decline and the proactive patrols used as part of our rural crime reduction strategy would be greatly impacted.

It was also requested that we look at funding the bike patrol unit with revenues from the speed on green program. The Intersection Safety Device (ISD) Program includes speed on green and red light violations at designated intersections. The program has been in effect since mid-2015. Revenues from the ISD program have been used to support the Option 4 Program and for staffing of peace officers on long weekends for Traffic Enforcement duties. Redirecting revenue from these two programs would have a direct impact on traffic safety here in Strathcona County.

RCMP & Enforcement Services is aware of the legislative changes with the decriminalization of cannabis. At this time, police agencies across Canada are unsure of the workload impact that

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this will bring to their communities. Here at Strathcona County, RCMP & Enforcement Services is monitoring the impact this will bring to our detachment. We are also looking at securing funding through the provincial Municipal Cannabis Transition Program. If required, we will be approaching council for additional resources to address the impact legalization of cannabis will have on our community. This will be based on evidentiary analysis to ensure we are addressing the issue properly. We have designed the necessary parameters within the Enforcement Services and the RCMP record management software system to capture the majority of calls to service involving cannabis. These modifications will ensure we provide an accurate representation of the impact of the legalization of cannabis to council

Given this context, Administration is requesting that we delay further discussion on the implementation of a bike patrol until the end of the second quarter of 2019 to properly address the workload analysis for RCMP & Enforcement Services. If the Priorities Committee is supportive of this approach, the Committee could make such a recommendation to Council for approval.

Council and Committee History

January 23, 2018 THAT a report for Council's consideration be prepared by Administration on the implementation of a "Peace Officer Bike Squad". The purpose of the "Peace Officer Bike Squad" would be to monitor the trail systems within Strathcona County. The report is to address the feasibility of funding such a bike squad from revenues generated from the Speed on Green program.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: Transportation Planning and Engineering through the Transportation Master Plan and Recreation, Parks and Culture

Master Plan/Framework: Transportation Master Plan

Communication Plan

A communication plan will be developed with the Strathcona County Communications department to ensure awareness and engagement.