

Flagged item
Enclosure #1

2020-2023 Budget

Flagged item # and description	Flagged Item #1 – RCMP Position (Domestic Violence Corporal) THAT RCMP and Enforcement Services provide information on the options (includes reallocation of resources) and implications of adding an RCMP Domestic Violence full-time position in the operating budget for 2020.
Date of request	November 25, 2019
Councillor	Dave Anderson
Department / Division	RCMP and Enforcement Services
Staff lead	Dave Kalist

Response:

Domestic Violence calls for service in Strathcona County have increased by 43% over the last 5 years. There was a 21% increase from 2017-2018 domestic violence occurrences reported to the RCMP in Strathcona County. The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) is responsible for overseeing criminal investigations of domestic violence which may or may not be immediately obvious, such as assault, criminal harassment, or uttering threats.

Historically, across Alberta, the negative, harmful or injurious results of domestic violence are a troublesome issue; effective management of domestic violence investigations in Strathcona County will mitigate the real and potential negative impacts of domestic violence cases.

In order to address these rising numbers of occurrences we have created a Corporal position to oversee the DVU. Establishing a leadership position for this important operational unit was seen to be vital to serving County residents. With a Corporal in place as a senior officer, the Domestic Violence Unit will be effectively managed. The position will:

- provide oversight of the DVU daily operations
- ensure the quality and integrity of complex domestic violence investigations
- ensure effective management of DVU resources as appropriate
- ensure officer safety and meet the needs of the community and ensure public safety
- ensure compliance with relevant legislation for high risk investigations

In addition, as a senior police officer, the Corporal provides leadership and effective decision-making for complex matters. The Corporal is an effective resource that can make informed and timely decisions, while providing guidance to unit officers.

In early 2019, we reclassified an existing RCMP Constable position into the Corporal position for DVU due to the importance of filling this position and in order to meet the increased reporting of domestic violence files. This was done as a realignment of resources with the understanding that funding for this position was approved in principle for the 2020 budget

Flagged item
Enclosure #1

2020-2023 Budget

year. In this reclassification we removed a Constable's position from one of our General Duty Watches which decreased strength in that area. This has caused a shortage on the General Duty Watch which will increase workloads on constables and may, in time, cause an impact on the service delivery in response to other files which are not domestic violence related.

The risk of not filling this position is that policing services will be affected in other areas of the detachment.

The annual budget impact for one Constable is \$155,000.