

Priorities Committee Meeting_Oct20_2020

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

RCMP and Enforcement Services- Department Business Plan Update

Report Purpose

To provide Priorities Committee with an update on the RCMP and Enforcement Services 2020 – 2023 Business Plan.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

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

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

Strathcona County RCMP and Enforcement Services is an integrated detachment that includes RCMP, municipal peace officers, sheriffs and municipal support staff. The detachment has five core functions;

- respond to calls for service,
- general investigations,
- traffic,
- community policing and
- support services

These core functions are responsible for public safety, law enforcement, evidence gathering for judicial proceedings, support for victims of crime, traffic safety, and public awareness/education through community policing. We are engaged in a number of initiatives that relate to our core functions. These initiatives are performed collaboratively, and in consultation, with both internal and external partners. Our department's over-arching primary function is to keep our community safe.

COVID-19 has impacted all County departments in 2020. Our staff were impacted with 11 hourly employees being laid off, limiting the number of staff on site from March 27 to June 22 to reduce the chance of an outbreak. The front counter was closed to the public from late March to late June which required the public to contact the Detachment online or by phone. Financially revenues were reduced due to the department closure and reduced service delivery while expenses increased due to new COVID-19 safety protocols.

Work coming out of the 2019 Employee Engagement Survey continues. In Q1, as part of the 2019 PPR process, each supervisor reviewed Strathcona County's Vision, Mission and Statement, and explained to the employee how they contribute to the overall goals of Strathcona as well as our own corporate goals. Infographics were also created in Q1 to share the results of the survey with the municipal employees. We are currently working with staff to develop a comprehensive communications plan for engaging staff on identifying the culture they would like to see within the department.

Progress that has occurred over the past year:

Crime Reduction

Over the past five years we have seen person crimes increase by 4.88% and property crime increase by 4.26%. However we have seen a change from 2018 to 2019 in that persons crime decreased by 14.77% and property crime decreased by 6.70%. In response to the

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trends that we are seeing, the Crime Investigation Unit (CIU) was created so that our members are able to provide policing services that are responsive and efficient. The Electronic Voice Entry Unit (EVE) continues to alleviate administrative duties for frontline RCMP and Enforcement Services members through continued enhancements. We continue to enhance security of County facilities, schools and businesses through the Corporate Security Officer and Enforcement Services offers CPTED audits to local Strathcona County businesses. Ongoing criminal analysis is used as part of our overall strategies to reduce and suppress crime in Strathcona County and we continue to build strong relationships through collaboration with other regional police agencies.

Some challenges we are facing are calls for service continue to rise within the Metro Region. Given the trends observed in the past five years, it is likely we will continue to see an increase in overall calls for service and need for police services. The sophistication of criminals through organized crime will also challenge police agencies. Technology and intelligence-led policing initiatives will be implemented to curb these trends to continue to be responsive to trends that we see at a local and provincial level in providing policing services.

Traffic Safety

Ongoing development of the Vision Zero philosophy within Strathcona County continues through the deliver of the 2020 Strathcona County Traffic Safety Strategic Plan. We will also look to increase resident engagement on traffic safety and program delivery through the Traffic Advisory Committee. We will continue to develop Specific Measurable Actionable Relevant Time-bound (SMART) goals through historical collision analysis and mapping. The commercial vehicle safety inspection process continues to ensure safety of road users.

As population continues to increase, along with the number of kilometres traveled within the Metro Region, we expect to face unique challenges involving road users. Through ongoing targeted efforts for enforcement and education, along with the use of advance technological tools, our traffic unit is poised to address these challenges.

Public Engagement

As part of our public engagement we are increasing rural crime prevention presentations and providing Fraud Awareness education to vulnerable residents. We will continue to deliver timely and informative media releases to enhance our external communications. Officers will continue their presence in schools through RCMP General Duty and Enforcement Services. As another effort to increase public engagement we will hold Town Hall style community meetings with the senior leader of the Detachment.

With the current trends in crime rates, the Detachment will have added pressures to provide prevention and awareness strategies to our residents. As a result the focus over the next five years is to ensure we are empowering our residents with crime prevention techniques and to ensure crime and disorder is being reported.

Automated Ticketing System Project

This project was approved in the 2019 Capital Budget and has been fully employed by the RCMP. In August 2019 phase one of the municipal launch was completed with the issuing of electronic tickets for parking infractions in Centre in the Park. Municipal Community Peace Officers completed their training for eTicketing in June 2020 and are now using the

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technology for issuing provincial tickets. We are now working on transitioning the municipal bylaw ticketing over to eTicketing which will be completed in Q2 2021.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: N/A

Master Plan/Framework: 2020 Strathcona County Traffic Safety Strategic Plan

Enclosure(s)

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| 1 | Department Business Plan Update – RCMP & Enforcement Services presentation |
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