



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 23, 2018
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Meeting Date: January 31, 2018

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

FROM: General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management

SUBJECT: 2017 City of Vancouver Costs for Vancouver Police Department DNA Analysis and Services

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve funding of \$585,000 for the 2017 DNA analysis costs associated with Vancouver Police Department (VPD). Source of funding is the 2017 Council Contingency.

REPORT SUMMARY

Until 2014, the Federal and Provincial Governments fully funded and provided the DNA analysis services to police agencies in British Columbia. The Province of British Columbia made an annual contribution of \$1.366 million and the Federal Government would contribute towards the remainder of the costs.

Under a revised funding model, the federal government will contribute 46% of the costs and the Province of British Columbia will contribute 54% of the costs. However, of the 54%, the Province of British Columbia will commit to only continuing to make the historical annual contribution of \$1.366 million such that any difference in the remaining costs are now to be paid by the participating police agencies, proportionate to their actual use of the services. After a transitional period to the change in this model, police agencies would start to pay for their share of actual use in 2016.

The 2016 Council approved VPD budget did not include funding specifically for this additional cost as discussions were in progress with the Province of British Columbia. The city's budget includes a Council contingency which would be used if VPD was not able to absorb these costs within their budget. For 2017, DNA analysis costs are expected to be \$585,000 and VPD is unable to absorb this within their 2017 budget. It is recommended that these costs be funded from the 2017 Council Contingency.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On August 4, 2015, the Chair of the Vancouver Police Board and the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Department wrote to the Premier of British Columbia to express “great concern” regarding the additional costs that the City of Vancouver will have to bear for DNA analysis and the significant negative financial impact.

On January 19, 2016 a motion to reinstate federal funding for DNA analysis was brought to Council. The motion was amended and carried unanimously as below:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Mayor Robertson write a letter on behalf of City Council to new Provincial Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris requesting that the BC government reinstate full funding for DNA analysis to ensure that public safety continues to be served in the City of Vancouver and other affected municipalities across British Columbia.

On April 12, 2016, a letter from the Mayor on behalf of City Council was sent to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris. A response from the Minister was received on May 26, 2016 reaffirming the Province’s commitment to continue funding \$1.366 million towards DNA analysis, continuing to require municipalities to pay for a portion of their DNA costs due to the Federal government’s change in the cost sharing agreement.

Council approval is required to access Council Contingency funds.

CITY MANAGER’S/GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

The City Manager and General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management recommend approval of funding \$585,000 in DNA analysis costs through the 2017 Council Contingency.

REPORT

Background/Context

Biological Casework Analysis (DNA) for police agencies in BC is provided by the RCMP Forensic Sciences and Identification Service lab under the National Police Services (NPS). NPS is a federally funded program operated under the stewardship of the RCMP.

Until 2014, the Federal and Provincial Governments fully funded and provided the DNA analysis services to police agencies in British Columbia. The Province of British Columbia made an annual contribution of \$1.366 million and the Federal Government would contribute towards the remainder of the costs.

The Federal and Provincial governments introduced the revised funding model, such that the federal government would contribute 46% of the costs and the Province of British Columbia would contribute 54% of the costs. However, the Province of British Columbia continues to make an annual contribution of \$1.366 million toward the cost of the DNA analysis and services. Starting in 2016, the remaining costs are now to be contributed, proportionate to use of the services, by the participating police agencies.

The 2016 Council approved VPD budget did not include funding specifically for this additional cost as discussions were in progress with the Province of British Columbia. The council contingency would be used if VPD was not able to absorb these costs within their budget.

Given changes in the funding model for DNA analysis and services and DNA analysis being a crucial investigative tool that is vital to VPD operations, the VPD is unable to absorb the 2017 DNA analysis costs in the amount of \$585,000 within the 2017 VPD Operating budget.

Financial Implications

It is recommended that funding in the amount of \$585,000 come from Council Contingency to the VPD budget with no net change to the overall 2017 City of Vancouver Budget.

CONCLUSION

Given changes in the funding model for DNA analysis and services, it is recommended that Council approve an increase to the 2017 VPD budget of \$585,000 for DNA analysis costs, with the source of funding to be the 2017 Council Contingency.

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