



ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

TO: Council
DATE: July 12, 2022
FILE: N/A
SUBJECT: Strathmore RCMP Watch Clerk Position

DIVISION: All
APPLICATION: N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In August 2018, Rocky View County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Strathmore to fund a watch clerk position to assist the front-line members. These positions would free up regular duty members from administrative tasks that required them to be in the office, not actively patrolling. The town is now requesting that the MOU be renewed for an additional five years.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends renewal of the MOU for an additional five years in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

With support from Rocky View County, the Town of Strathmore, and Wheatland County, a watch clerk program was created in 2018. Each funding partner has contributed a clerk resource.

Watch clerks are support staff employees dedicated to supporting front-line policing activities within the Strathmore detachment area. These clerks complete a myriad of administrative functions on behalf of front-line police officers. Activities include, but are not limited to, data entry, completion of court submissions, fulfilling communication requests, data quality checks, responding to disclosure requests, completion of collision reports, and dispatching routine calls for service.

This assistance results in increased time members can spend actively patrolling communities and investigating crime. With a fully-staffed watch clerk pool, there exists the potential to increase front-line policing time across the Strathmore detachment area from approximately 2,281 to 3,421 man-hours each year (subject to absences or vacancies). Rural members in particular benefit most from this program, given the response/travel distance between dispatched calls for service and the detachment.

As a measure to enhance the program, the Detachment Commander has reallocated a provincially-funded position into the pool to support all four watches. The watch clerk pool will continue to support Langdon members in the absence of the Langdon front counter support staff.

A barrier within the existing program is the yearly contract terms, which can be a deterrent to attracting and retaining highly qualified candidates. Normalizing these positions would remove the uncertainty of yearly contracts and resolve potential retention issues.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no additional budget implications. Funding for the watch clerk position currently exists in the budget.

Administration Resources

Lorraine Wesley, Manager, Enforcement Services



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

This item supports Council's strategic objective of customer service.

OPTIONS:

Option #1: THAT Administration be directed to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Strathmore for an additional 5 years to continue the County's commitment of funding a watch clerk position for the Strathmore RCMP detachment.

Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

"Kent Robinson"

"Dorian Wandzura"

Executive Director
Corporate Services

Chief Administrative Officer

LW/lw/lr