



# 2021 Service Review Council Questions

**SERVICE AREA:** Police

**PAGE NUMBER:** 2-6

**ELECTED OFFICIAL:** Poole

## QUESTION:

I'd like to know what might shift in your service areas (staffing, contracting, programs) if there were roughly a 5% or 10% cut in the tax revenue available to your department, compared to 2019, for your service areas.

I'm asking this question of all departments during this pandemic period. Many of us in business are forced to tighten our belts. While there may be arguments at higher-levels of government for fiscal spending to stimulate the economy, at our municipal level, by reducing taxes we help reduce the burdens on our residents.

What operations could be reduced for 2021, perhaps deferred by a year or two?

Operations and capital projects are intertwined. A new capital project typically needs people to oversee it. Are there capital projects, which, if deferred, might free up some of your staff time to deliver current services you would prioritize?

## ANSWER:

Administration takes guidance for the service review and budget from the Governance and Finance Committee during the review of the Financial Plan. The service review is this Committee's opportunity to review the services offered by the Town and either enhance or reduce service levels based on based on the needs of their constituents. Administration has adjusted budgets and work plans for the targets set out in the financial plan in July 2020 and reconfirmed in December 2020.

Operating impacts resulting from capital projects can be found at the end of each of the previously approved capital project descriptions included throughout the service review. During the service review presentations administration will highlight individual operating impacts as we go through each capital project.



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**SERVICE AREA:** Police Services

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**ELECTED OFFICIAL:** DiManno

## QUESTION:

We've heard about a rise in domestic violence during the pandemic. Can you give Council a sense of the types of calls RCMP is responding to?

## ANSWER:

Domestic violence events in the Town of Banff decreased by 10% from 2020 to 2019. However, 2019 was a high-water mark for this offence type. The 2020 offence rate was at or above par with the years 2015-2018 despite lower visitor and seasonal resident populations. Domestic violence events increased by 15% in our provincial area in 2020. The majority of these events in both municipal and provincial areas involved persons who visited Banff from other points.

The following is a combination of information obtained directly from clients via interviews, and anecdotal information obtained from hotel security teams. A consistent theme with domestic violence events involved people who chose to visit Banff for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including frustration with loss of work, restrictions on social gatherings, limitations with foreign travel, and/or capitalizing on reduced hotel rates. Early closures of bars and the lack of a nightclub saw patrons return to hotels earlier than was the norm in prior years, with a corresponding increase in liquor consumption within hotel rooms. Emotions related to the pandemic, combined with consumption of liquor and a physical environment which provides little stimulus or freedom to move, has contributed to domestic violence events. Security teams have de-escalated and resolved many

events by moving a client to an unoccupied hotel room. As a general overview, the level of violence within this offence type has been more significant than in previous years.

A secondary issue within this category involved domestic disputes among Banff residents within private residences. The majority of these events were non-violent disputes that required intervention by the police. Persons involved mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic as a contributing factor, referring to frustrations with working from home in close quarters in combination with homeschooling, economic uncertainty, and restrictions on social / physical activities.



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**SERVICE AREA:** Police Services

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**ELECTED OFFICIAL:** Olver

## QUESTION:

1. Police Activity Revenue in 2021 Proposed (\$300,000) is more than 2020 Q3 forecast (\$106,351) and more than 2019 actual (\$265,517). How was the budget number for 2021 determined?
2. Contracted & General Services: 2019 Actual \$2,066,771; 2020 Q3 Forecast \$2,181,750; 2021 Proposed \$2,007,636. Why is 2021 less than 2019 and 2020?

## ANSWER:

1. RCMP revenue in 2020 was down due to a combination of less vehicular traffic in town as well as priority shifting to COVID related issues. We are striving to meet the 2021 300,000 target as the town requested RCMP put more emphasis on traffic safety.
2. Contracted and General services is solely related to the number of active FTEs in the detachment. Banff has 14 municipal officer positions. Historically, the actual FTE count is approximately 13 due to transfers, secondments and injuries and therefore we budget for 13 FTE's. 2020 is the first year in recent history that 14 FTE's were actually at the detachment and therefore the 2020 Forecast is higher. We have budgeted and anticipate 2021 to go back to a more historical trend.



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**ELECTED OFFICIAL:** DiManno

## QUESTION:

Have public health order warning/tickets been issued in 2020/2021? If so how many and in which areas?

## ANSWER:

The Banff RCMP have investigated 234 events related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes events related to the federal Quarantine Act, provincial Public Health Act, and the Town of Banff municipal bylaw. The Banff RCMP have followed the guidelines of Public Health Agency Canada, which is to educate the public, encourage people to follow public health orders, and finally to enforce legislation when that measure is necessary. Four events resulted in charges: one charge under the Quarantine Act, one charge under the Public Health Act, and two charges under Banff Bylaw 436. Both of the offences that led to enforcement of provincial/federal legislation occurred within Improvement District 9.

91 of these events related to violations of the Public Health Act (67 in the municipality, 24 in the ID9). Of these, 21 violations were cleared by way of a warning. The RCMP managed the majority of the remaining events via education or encouragement, and a small number of violations could not be resolved due to an inability to identify the persons subject to complaint.

There have been numerous informal warnings / education of the municipal bylaw relating to mask use as the public gained familiarity with the legislation. The vast majority of these events occurred as police officers walked in the designated mask zone. Informal conversations are not captured as statistics.



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**SERVICE AREA:** Police

**PAGE NUMBER:** n/a

**ELECTED OFFICIAL:** Christensen

## QUESTION:

Has consideration been given to the notion that policing costs are reportedly rising substantially in 2021?

## ANSWER:

Referring to page 2 of Police service review document,

Proposed budget for policing for 2021 is slightly lower than approved 2021 budget and lower than 2020 Q3 forecast and budget and lower than 2019 actuals.