



2023 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Police Services

PAGE NUMBER: 6

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Pelham

QUESTION:

why did municipal police costs per staff go up so much in 2021?

ANSWER:

The cost per staff is based on local costs that are specific to Banff and pooled costs that are shared with other Alberta municipalities. The local costs include the increase in wages upon ratification of a collective bargaining agreement. Overtime increased due to shortage of officers, and utility costs were higher than in prior years. The pooled costs that contribute to this increase include a dramatic increase in the cost of vehicles, an increased cost of fuel, and an increase in the Division Administration rate, which includes costs for core administration, health benefits, and the costs of members on special leave.



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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Does Administration know if Bar Watch has identified any gaps in their system that could be made to enhance it ie all being on the same ID scanning system?

ANSWER:

We are waiting for a response from Bar Watch and will give a verbal response in the Police Services section.



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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Earlier in the year, Council directed Administration to work with the RCMP and YWCA to identify potential initiatives or programs the Town of Banff could help fund to support sexual violence prevention - is that work still underway?

ANSWER:

The Town partnered with the YWCA, RCMP and Bow Valley Victim Services to apply for a Alberta Crime Prevention grant for the maximum grant amount of \$150,000 to conduct a 2 year project. The Y took the lead as the main applicant with support letters from the Town of Banff and other agencies. We are awaiting adjudication of the grant. If successful, the application outlines a 2 phase project approach.

Phase 1 will involve exploring context and prevalence in our unique rural community in order to develop appropriate interventions and preventative strategies to carry out evidence based research specifically examining the prevalence of violence, public safety and perceived safety in our community. We will use a mixed-method approach involving qualitative and quantitative data: surveys, focus groups, statistics from relevant partners, interviews, etc.

Phase 2 will use the data collected to carry out multi-pronged prevention initiatives that align with the needs our community has identified. Initiative could include: public awareness campaigns, collaborative initiatives with the hospitality and tourism sector, development of seasonal staff training, environmental nudges targeting visitors and greater promotion of resources for victims of violence.



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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Are we fully staffed now and in better shape staff-wise than we were in March 2021 when we approved the additional officer? What's the assessment on staffing levels?

ANSWER:

We have two vacancies that will be filled via incoming transfer in December. We have one vacancy that will be created due to outgoing transfer in December. It is not a front line position. The position that was funded in 2021 will be filled in December. Our last three incoming transfers have been recruits, and they are not independent for the first six months. The first to arrive has been independent since August, the second will be independent in January, and the third won't be independent until June. We have one officer who cannot work in a front line capacity due to health restrictions, and our HR team is working on finding workplace accommodation outside of Banff. We have one officer who is off work completely due to health issues. There are two other officers who are off due to health, but I have backfilled their positions so they do not impact our service level. In summary, we will be in better shape by the new year due to two arrivals, the new recruit, and the current recruit becoming independent. But the vacancies due to health issues will continue to impact us.



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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Community safety discussion was very productive - can the RCMP speak to the future plans for hosting these events and/or other ways to bolster communicating with the public year-round?

ANSWER:

Banff Detachment will host another community meeting in March and will ask the public for input on our annual policing priorities. We are working on improving communication and directing the community to reliable sources of information. We are working with Bow Valley journalists to determine ways to get information on criminal activity and public safety into the papers in an informative way. We are also using social media more frequently and will use this forum to trial coffee meetings with the public as a way for people to get to know us in an informal setting and hear what we do. We will increase information available on the Town website as well.



2023 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Police - NSLR Additional RCMP Officer

PAGE NUMBER: 2

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Pelham

QUESTION:

please confirm if RCMP vehicles park in the Banff Ave/Caribou intersection at night what hours/until how late?

ANSWER:

The RCMP focus on the nighttime economy in our downtown core throughout the year. There is an increased focus in the summer months. From Canada Day until the Labour Day weekend, the RCMP provides the enhanced policing program which involves two additional members for Friday/Saturday nights. These officers park their vehicles within the pedestrian zone, usually at the Banff/Caribou intersection, and patrol the downtown core between Buffalo and Wolf streets until 4:00 AM. The vast majority of this time is spent on Banff Avenue. The regular shift provides this same service to supplement the enhanced policing shift and manages this when there are no enhanced policing officers. The regular shift is also responsible for events that occur outside the downtown core and are often pulled away to manage these incidents.



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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Hoping to clarify - on the second page, it speaks to police maintaining a presence at night since the installation of the Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone. That nighttime visibility program has been in effect for several years.. since at least 2014?

ANSWER:

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ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

Can Administration give an update on efforts to date with the Province on revisiting the Incorporation Agreement commitments?

ANSWER:

The Mayor and Town Manager met with Minister Shandro and staff on September 30 to discuss the issue. The response was that the Banff detachment is appropriately staffed and funded. The Ministers office was going to forward the data for us to review and reply. to date, we have not received any information.