

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Corporate Services

2022 Court Security Grant Levy

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council receive and refer the recommendation of the Local Court Security Advisory Committee, dated September 15, 2021, to provision a special 2022 tax levy for a Court Security Grant for Woodstock Police Services in the amount of \$51,541 determined on the same basis as the 2018 to 2021 annual special grant levies, to 2022 budget deliberations;
2. And further, that the Local Court Security Advisory Committee's recommendation to continue to lobby the Provincial Government for 100% funding for actual costs incurred in the provision of local court security and prisoner transportation services be adopted.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2022 proposed Court Security Grant of \$51,541 (\$95,088 – 2021) to offset a portion of the costs incurred by the Woodstock Police Service – 45.8% decrease from 2021
- Special Grant levy will be allocated to properties within each of the County's Area Municipalities with the exception of the City of Woodstock

Implementation Points

Upon approval of this report, County Council will give consideration of this matter as part of their deliberations in determining the 2022 County budget and business plans.

Financial Impact

The recommendation of the Local Court Security Advisory Committee cited in this report infers sharing the Woodstock Police Service's net court security and prisoner transportation costs as they relate to the Oxford County Court House located in the City of Woodstock. The proposed funding model is to share the court security and prisoner transportation cost incurred by the Woodstock Police Service based on prior year's actuals reported to the Solicitor General, net of the CSPT funding received from the Solicitor General for that year.

As such, the 2020 deficit would then be shared on the basis of 60/40 with the City being responsible for 60% of the deficit and the County being responsible for the remaining 40% which would be levied against seven of the area municipalities, excluding the City of Woodstock. For the purposes of the County's 2022 budget, the figures are set out in Table 1.

Table 1 – Grant Funding Model Calculation

Municipality	2020			Wdsk Deficit	Wdsk 60% Funded	County 40% Funded
	Allocation	CSPT Net Costs	% Funded			
Blandford-Blenheim Tp	\$4,494					
East Zorra-Tavistock Tp	4,431					
Ingersoll T	4,577					
Norwich Tp	6,197					
South-West Oxford Tp	4,831					
Tillsonburg T	5,240					
Zorra Tp	5,266					
Woodstock C	438,458	567,310	77%	\$128,852	\$77,311	\$51,541
County	99,911	51,525	194%			
Totals	\$573,405	\$618,835	93%			
Net Costs to County and Area Municipalities		\$45,429				
% of CSPT Net Costs Covered by Allocation		93%				
Provincial Upload Commitment		100%				

The grant amount to be funded by the County is raised by special levy through a separate tax rate applied to the assessment in each property class in each of the Area Municipalities, with the exception of Woodstock, similar to the County Library levy.







Communications

The County's Communications and Strategic Engagement Team will facilitate the 2022 Business Plan and Budget communications strategy, including the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation special grant levy for the Woodstock Police Services.

The communications plan includes public engagement through [SpeakUp Oxford!](#) where 596 people responded to the 2022 budget survey that concluded on August 31, 2021. The 2022 Business Plan and Budget as released on November 10, 2021 and presentations delivered to Council at each of the budget meetings will be posted on the [SpeakUp Oxford!](#) site. The site also provides dates and times for each of the Council meetings with links to recordings if individuals are not able to attend the live meetings.

The results gathered through the 2022 budget survey will assist in informing the Communications Team how best to engage and inform the public about the process.

Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

					
WORKS WELL TOGETHER	WELL CONNECTED	SHAPES THE FUTURE	INFORMS & ENGAGES	PERFORMS & DELIVERS	POSITIVE IMPACT
		3.i. 3.iii.			

DISCUSSION

Background

In 2017, County Council adopted a Terms of Reference for the appointment of a Local Court Security Advisory Committee with a composition consisting of the Warden as Chair and non-County Councillor members, represented by three appointed by Woodstock Council and one appointed by each of the remaining area municipal Councils.

The following roster of members have been appointed by each of their respective municipal Council for the current term of Council (2019-2022).

Municipality	Member's Name
East Zorra-Tavistock	Matthew Gillespie
Woodstock	Connie Lauder
Woodstock	Jerry Acchione
Ingersoll	Gord Lesser
Tillsonburg	Larry Scanlan
Zorra	Katie Davies
Norwich	Larry Martin (Chair)
Blandford-Blenheim	Randy Balzer
South-West Oxford	Jim Pickard

At the time of establishing the Committee, County Council adopted the following mandate:

- Annually recommend to County Council the level of County funding for costs incurred by the Woodstock Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police for Court Security and Prisoner Transportation services, having regard for the efficient use of resources; and
- Advocate for court security and prisoner transportation funding from the Province that achieves 100% of municipal costs by 2019 and thereafter.

Comments

The fifth annual meeting of the Local Court Security Advisory Committee, was held on September 15, 2021. At the meeting, the Advisory Committee dealt with the directives within their mandate. After careful consideration of the actual costs incurred by the Woodstock Police Services in 2019 net of other funding sources, the Committee passed the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that, the Local Court Security Advisory Committee hereby recommends to County Council, that the financial contribution to assist in the City of Woodstock’s court security and prisoner transportation cost deficit for 2022 be determined on the same basis as 2018 to 2021, with the net Court Security and Prisoner Transportation costs as reported to the Ministry of the Solicitor General for 2020 less the City’s 2020 Court Security Grant Allocation, shared 60% by the City of Woodstock, and 40% by special levy imposed by the County of Oxford on all area municipalities with the exception of Woodstock the amount of which will be \$51,541;

And further, that the Local Court Security Advisory Committee recommends that County Council continue to lobby the Provincial Government for 100% funding for actual costs incurred in the provision of local court security and prisoner transportation services.”

The draft minutes from the Local Court Security Advisory Committee’s September 15, 2021 meeting are posted on the County’s website at <http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/Your-Government/Boards-and-Committees/Court-Security-Advisory-Committee> .

Conclusions

The Local Court Security Advisory Committee has responded to Council’s assigned mandate by recommending advocating the Province for full cost recovery funding for court security and prisoner transportation funding; and, reaffirming the 2018-2021 funding model for the 2022 fiscal year that is determined fair and reasonable for the efficient and effective delivery of court security and prisoner transportation services in Oxford County.

SIGNATURES

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by _____

Lynn S. Buchner, CPA, CGA
Director of Corporate Services

Approved for submission:

Original signed by _____

Michael Duben, B.A., LL.B.
Chief Administrative Officer