

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Corporate Services

Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That County Council hereby authorizes the Director of Corporate Services to execute a Funding Agreement with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, under the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program, as outlined in Report No. CS 2023-09.**

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program provides partial funding for municipal court security and prisoner transportation costs
 - Annual court security and prisoner transportation costs related to the County's Provincial Offices Administration (POA) budget is approximately \$16,000 in a typical year
 - 2023 court security and prisoner transportation special levy \$10,276
- 2023 funding allocation under the CSPT program – up to \$73,958

Implementation Points

Subject to the County entering into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Ministry, the Ministry will provide allocations of funding based on the County's 2021 provincial court security and prisoner transportation costs. Funding allocations will be received in four instalments over the course of the year – the first being upon final execution of the funding agreement; the second instalment upon the Province's receipt and approval of the County's 2022 Annual Financial Report; and, the remaining two instalments will be released in September and December 2023 respectively.

Financial Impact







A provision for Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Funding was not included in the 2023 budget, as the Ministry announcement for allocations was not provided until after the County’s annual budget approval. Considering funding allocations are determined in relation to all municipalities’ CSPT actual costs for two years prior to the transfer payment, and is limited to a \$125 million provincial funding commitment, it is not a calculation that can accurately be estimated by municipalities.

Transfer Payment Agreements have now been issued to all eligible municipalities and the County’s 2023 allocation has been calculated to be \$73,958.

Communications

The communications requirements of the transfer payment agreement indicate that the County will acknowledge the Province’s financial support for these services and any related publications be qualified as views of the County that do not necessarily reflect those of the Province.

Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

					
WORKS WELL TOGETHER	WELL CONNECTED	SHAPES THE FUTURE	INFORMS & ENGAGES	PERFORMS & DELIVERS	POSITIVE IMPACT
1.ii.					

DISCUSSION

Background

In response to *The Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR)* that was completed in 2008, commencing in 2012 the Province began uploading costs of court security (including prisoner transportation) over seven years, by providing funding to municipalities to a maximum of \$125 million annually at maturity. Table 1 below illustrates the timing of the upload and the percentage of \$125 million allocated to municipalities across the Province over the transition period.

Table 1 – Provincial Upload Schedule – Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Costs

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Court Security	14%	29%	43%	57%	71%	86%	100%

In 2018, the newly elected provincial government immediately initiated a province-wide review of government expenditures. In the ensuing years, municipalities have received notice of the continuation on the CSPT funding program on an annual basis within the funding year –

typically in early March. The final review report was released by the Ministry in January 2022, committing to continue the CSPT Funding Program with no changes to the overall funding envelope, subject to the regular fiscal process.

In addition, a phased approach is being taken in response to the program review to ensure a pathway for future planning and continuous improvement founded on evidence that addresses gaps in the program review. As a first step in this phased approach, and based on one of the consultant's recommendations, the Ministry is enhancing reporting requirements for the CSPT Funding Program through the introduction of a performance measurement framework. This will help create a foundation for continuous quality improvement and program efficiencies that are evidence-based.

Comments

An expenditure-based model is used to determine funding allocations for each municipality eligible for funding under the CSPT Program. The 2023 CSPT funding allocations are based on each municipality's relative share of the total 2021 court security and prisoner transportation costs across the province. As a result, the County's allocation for 2023 in comparison to years 2018 to 2023 is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – 2018 – 2023 CSPT Funding Allocations vs Costs for Oxford County

Calendar Year	County Allocation	Actual/Budget Costs	% of Actual/ Budget Court Security Costs ^{1,2}
2018	\$10,850	\$131,358	8.3%
2019	9,842	108,579	9.1%
2020	99,911	51,525	193.9%
2021	30,431	95,088	32.0%
2022	39,522	65,541	60.3%
2023	73,958	26,276	281.5%
Total	\$264,514	\$478,367	55.3%

Note 1: 2023 percentage is based on 2023 approved budget costs

Note 2: 2018 was the first year court security costs includes the court security and prisoner transportation grant to the City of Woodstock

Note 3: 2021 CSPT allocation was reduced by \$48,387 due to suspended court proceedings in response to the pandemic resulting in significant decrease in court security and prisoner transportation costs – similar adjustments may result in 2023, subject to the 2022 final financial report

Over the course of 2022, staff have been compiling the prescribed performance measures for reporting to the Ministry and to Council at the end of the first quarter in 2023. The performance measures include:

- Number of court appearances – broken down by in-person and virtual;
- Number of full-time sworn police officers and special constables supporting prisoner transportation and/or court security – broken down by sworn police officers and special constables; and
- Number of prisoner transportation trips – broken down by sworn police officers and special constables.

Conclusions

Securing a Funding Agreement for the CSPT Program will allow the County to receive up to \$73,958 in 2023 to offset the cost of providing court security and prisoner transportation in the Provincial Offenses Courtroom and offices, and the grant paid to the City of Woodstock.

SIGNATURES

Departmental Approval:

Original signed by

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

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Interim Chief Administrative Officer