



HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	March 30, 2023
SUBJECT:	2022 Year End Report – Towing
REPORT NUMBER:	23-020
SUBMITTED BY:	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides statistical and financial information with respect to the towing contracts the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) has with towing companies in the City of Hamilton.

INFORMATION

The HPS contracts 15 towing companies under contract C9-01-19 for the towing of vehicles as required. This contract commenced November 1, 2019 for three years, concluding December 31, 2022. The contract has been extended to March 31, 2023 pending a new tender.

The contract utilizes a Vehicle Management System (VMS), maintained by Extend Communications. The system provides an inventory of all vehicles in the tow yards, updated by the individual tow companies. The VMS is user-friendly, having been previously endorsed by contracted companies.

In 2022, collection of administration fees from the contracted towing companies resulted in revenue generation of \$174,856.20, as compared to \$159,714.20 in 2021, and \$154,719.60 for 2020. This represents an increase of 9.5% and 13% respectively over each of the previous two years. There were 3,813 vehicles towed in 2022, compared to 3,560 in 2021 and 3,449 in 2020.

In 2022, 260 vehicles were unclaimed by registered owners, compared to 332 vehicles in 2021. Various circumstances contribute to a vehicle remaining unclaimed, most frequently because tow and storage fees exceed the value of the vehicle, current owners of non-registered vehicles are unknown, or vehicles were involved in collisions without insurance

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or collision coverage. After 60 days in storage, unclaimed vehicles were released to the respective towing company to recoup expenses for their service as per the Storage and Liens Act, at which time they are removed from the HPS inventory of seized vehicles.

The HPS paid out \$12,806.00 in 2022 for towing related expenses, such as seizing vehicles for criminal investigations or assisting victims with towing costs. In 2021, the HPS paid out \$13,061.87 representing a 2% decrease in payouts in 2022.

The HPS tow coordinator will continue to ensure there is a standardized program for all police involved tows in the City of Hamilton. The program will continue to ensure consistency in fees and equitable treatment for all instances involving police “secure” and “non-secure” tows.

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cc: Paul Hamilton, Deputy Chief – Support Services
Shawn Blaj, Superintendent – Community Safety Division
PC Carolyn Wojtasik, Tow Coordinator – Traffic Services

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