




HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	March 28, 2024
SUBJECT:	Offender Management Grant
REPORT NUMBER:	24-016
SUBMITTED BY:	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) That the Hamilton Police Service Board (Board) ratify the agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Solicitor General, pursuant to the terms, conditions, and duration of the Agreement.
- b) That the Board approve the hiring of one (1) Sworn Constable, one (1) Civilian Crime Analyst, and (1) Court Clerk for the Offender Management (OMU) unit to facilitate an Offender Management Strategy for the duration of this funding, increasing the approved headcount by three (3) FTEs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- In January 2024, the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) received notification that they were successful in their application to the *Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant (BCWA)* through the Ministry of the Solicitor General.
- The Grant awarded the HPS \$1,193,408.51 over three (3) years to address violent and repeat offenders who are out on bail or under community supervision within the City of Hamilton.
- Based on section 8.1 Delegation of Authority of the Board's Procedural By-law 23-001 (as amended), this 'agreement or contract' was approved by the Chair & Vice Chair prior to the Board's February 29th, 2024 meeting to accommodate Ministry deadlines and is being brought forward to this Board meeting for ratification.

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FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Maximum funding will be provided by the Province up to the amount of \$1,193,408.51 over the course of the Grant.

Funding will contribute towards the salary and benefits of the designated members, training and equipment, a budget neutral impact.

Salary and Benefits (Sworn + Civilian)	\$985,036.75
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Staffing: One (1) Constable, One (1) Civilian Crime Analyst, and One (1) Court Clerk above approved strength. Should the funding not be continued, the members will be reassigned to positions that become vacant through attrition.

Legal Implications: N/A

INFORMATION

While Bail is a necessary part of our judicial system, the existing system's reliance on bail often results in the release of individuals who may pose a potential threat to the community or have a history of violent offenses. These bail decisions place burden on law enforcement agencies to monitor and manage individuals who are out on bail, diverting resources away from other critical tasks. In 2022, the Hamilton Police made 7,814 arrests where 62% (4,828 individuals) had release orders. In the past 5 years, the gradual uptick in the number of releases has led to a discernible impact on our community, necessitating a strategic and sustainable approach to managing offenders. These trends have been amplified by the pandemic and new legislation such as Bill C-75. For context, in 2021 there were 7,674 releases in Hamilton, 109% higher than the volume experienced in 2018. In the past 5 years, Hamilton has averaged 5,480 releases per year. The sheer volume of releases is beyond the abilities for a police organization to manage. However, law enforcement led management of offenders is necessary and aims to minimize recidivism. In 2022, HPS found that 1 in 3 individuals charged with a violence offence were breaching judicial releases.

In January 2024, the HPS was notified that their application for the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant was successful. The awarded grant will provide resourcing over three (3) years to support a comprehensive Offender Management Strategy that targets high-risk offenders living within the Hamilton community. The funds will be dispersed in the following timelines and amounts: 2023-24 – \$396,262.51, 2024-25 – \$399,963.75, and 2025-25 – \$397,182.25.

The multi-year funding will be allocated to staffing, equipment and technology in the HPS Offender Management Unit (OMU). Specifically, the HPS will require one (1) new Constable in addition to the existing two (2) HPS Constables, one (1) civilian Crime Analyst and one (1) Court Clerk to augment an existing offender management strategy. The officers will be

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dedicated to managing high-risk offenders and coordinating the management of offenders with uniform front line patrol by using education, enforcement and community referral strategies. The civilian Crime Analyst and Court Clerk will facilitate data and coordination in collaboration with the local MAG Crown Attorney. This enhanced staffing will enable the OMU to work closely with the MAG Intensive Serious Violent Crime Bail Team. In addition, the OMU will leverage new technologies to facilitate shared information regarding the management of offenders with other municipal and provincial law-enforcement partners.

This strategy will provide a coordinated and data driven approach to managing offenders that will leverage and augment existing HPS resources, providing Hamilton with a safer community.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Decline the Grant funding and maintain approved headcount at the current level.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A – Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement – HPS & Solicitor General

FB/M.Schulenberg