



## AGENDA ITEM

### School Resource Officer Agreement

(City of Lacombe & Lacombe Police Service)

**February 25, 2020**

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program with Wolf Creek Public Schools has been in place for 25 years. Lacombe County has been contributing yearly to the SRO program, but without a current agreement in place. During the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) discussions, it was determined that an agreement was to be drafted and executed between the Lacombe Police Service (LPS), Lacombe County, and the City of Lacombe. This agreement will be included in the ICF review that will occur every four years.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The Lacombe Police Service, in partnership with the City of Lacombe, Lacombe County, and Wolf Creek Public Schools have worked together successfully for 25 years supporting the School Resource Officer Program. The very first agreement for this position was put in place in 1996 between the Town of Lacombe and Wolf Creek School Division No. 72. Lacombe County started contributing to the School Resource Officer Program in 1998.

The primary role of the SRO is to build relationships with the students and staff to help foster a safe learning environment. The SRO delivers proactive and prevention programs, investigates occurrences within the schools, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and parents.

For the duration of the SRO Program, there have been agreements in place with Wolf Creek Public Schools who contributes 50% of the required funds to operate the Program. An active agreement is currently in place with Wolf Creek School Division and Lacombe Police Service that automatically renews each year. Lacombe County has been contributing 25% of the net cost of the SRO program. The City and LPS contribute the final 25% to the SRO program.

The funding required to run the SRO Program in Lacombe is the net cost of the salary and benefits for a First-Class Constable. The lease for the vehicle that the officer utilizes



has been generously donated by a local dealership in Lacombe. Over the years, various SRO agreements with Lacombe County have been drafted and expired; however, their contributions have been very consistent. During the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework discussions, it was decided by the joint ICF committee that an agreement for the shared contributions was to be drafted and signed by the municipalities and the Lacombe Police Service. The agreements under the ICF Master Agreement are to be reviewed every four years.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Council approves the School Resource Officer Agreement with the City of Lacombe and Lacombe Police Service
2. Council direct Administration to make changes to the School Resource Officer Agreement as they see fit
3. Council receives this report as information

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

This agreement does not have any additional budget implications outside of what has been previously approved by Council. This agreement formally puts in place the framework to support this previous decision by Council and as requested through the joint ICF committee.

## **LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Municipal Government Act: Section 3 – The purpose of a municipality are

- (a) to provide good government,
- (b) to provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary for all or a part of the municipality, and
- (c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The following elements of the County's Strategic Plan (2018-2023) are relevant to this issue:

### Strategic Priorities and Action Items:

- Service Delivery – Strategic Priority B - Maintain effective cooperation and collaboration with neighbouring urban and rural municipalities

- 8.8 (B) - Complete Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with neighbouring municipalities

Key Success Measures:

- Sustainability - Current services are maintainable and provide benefits for the future, while minimizing negative impacts on the community

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions*

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the School Resource Officer Agreement with the City of Lacombe and Lacombe Police Service.

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**REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager**

