



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Title:** Public Safety Canada - Letter of Concern Regarding RCMP Member Approval

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2022

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### **Executive Summary:**

Administration is concerned about the timelines involved in Public Safety Canada's approval process for an additional RCMP member in the City of Cold Lake.

The original request to Public Safety was made using a form letter on February 1, 2022, and received an email reply on May 2, 2022, requesting confirmation of the municipality's financial commitment for the additional position. This confirmation was provided via email on May 3, 2022.

Having no further correspondence from Public Safety Canada, a follow up email requesting further information on the status of the file was sent on June 9, 2022. No reply has been received to date.

Administration is concerned that an unreasonable delay is being created in effort to increase policing resources for the community. Without the request being approved over the past five (5) months, the recruitment process for the additional position has not started. This in itself could take months to complete.

### **Background:**

In its 2022 operating budget, Council included incremental costs needed to hire an additional regular member at the Cold Lake RCMP Detachment.

The Cold Lake RCMP Detachment currently operates with 1 Staff Sergeant, 2 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, 24 Constables and 11 Detachment Clerks (7 municipal Employees and 4 Public Service Employees). The detachment provides 24-hour, 365-day coverage across 3 separate watches.

As per the Police Service Agreement, requests for additional police members must be approved by the Minister of Public Safety. This helps to ensure that training classes are sized appropriately and that the RCMP and Public Safety Canada understand the demand for RCMP members nation-wide.



The City of Cold Lake's experience in adding additional members has varied from a couple months to over 6 to 8 months, once an approval from the Minister has been made for the additional resources. The timelines also vary depending on whether the member needs to come from depot.

**Alternatives:**

- Council may pass a motion authorizing a letter of concern to the Minister of Public Safety in regards to the timelines experienced for the approval of an additional RCMP officer in the City of Cold Lake.
- Council may decline to authorize a letter to the Minister of Public Safety at this time.

**Recommended Action:**

Administration recommends that Council pass a motion authorizing a letter of concern to the Minister of Public Safety in regards to the timelines experienced for the approval of an additional RCMP officer in the City of Cold Lake.

**Budget Implications (Yes or No):**

No

**Submitted by:**

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer