




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members of Council
DATE:	April 17, 2025
SUBJECT:	Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program Agreement for 2025
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Kirk Weaver Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
SIGNATURE:	

On March 21, 2025, the City received notification from the Ministry of the Solicitor General regarding the allocation of funds for the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) Program. In order to receive the funds, the Province requires the City to enter into a Transfer Payment agreement. Through Report FCS21036, delegated authority is in place for the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, to be able to execute this agreement.

As a condition for receiving the Provincial funding, the agreement requires the City to:

- Use the funds only for eligible activities; and
- Report back to the Province using the Annual Financial and Performance Measurement Report template provided (this report to be prepared by the Hamilton Police Service (HPS)).

Upon executing the 2025 Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province, the City will receive funding amounting to \$5.24 M for 2025 to help offset the cost of providing court security and prisoner transportation. The 2025 Police budget estimated this provincial funding to be \$4.9 M resulting in the City being able to cover a higher proportion of these costs from Provincial funding than originally planned.

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By entering into the Agreement, the City of Hamilton is forecast to cover about 67% of court security costs from funding through the Province of Ontario for eligible services and activities under the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Program, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement effective January 1, 2025. The Agreement sets out the criteria for eligible services and activities.

Table 1 shows details of the funding received by the City from 2018 to 2025 and the actual CSPT expenditures incurred by the City. The City's share has been roughly around 4% of the total Provincial funding and it is determined by the City share of spending compared to the other eligible municipalities.

Table 1	Provincial CSPT Funding and City Share: 2018 to 2025		
	\$'000		
Year	Total CSPT Provincial Funding For All Municipalities	City Share of Provincial CSPT Funding	City Share % of Provincial CSPT Funding
2018	125,000	4,200.9	3.4%
2019	125,000	4,947.3	4.0%
2020	125,000	5,055.3	4.0%
2021	125,000	5,173.0	4.1%
2022	125,000	4,895.1	3.9%
2023	125,000	4,958.3	4.0%
2024	125,000	4,882.7	3.9%
2025	125,000	5,237.5	4.2%

Table 2 shows the total cost for the City for the provision of the court services based on the qualifying criteria per the Provincial agreement and the percentage of such cost recovered via the Provincial funding agreement. The funding shortfall has been increasing over the last few years and for 2025, the anticipated funding shortfall is expected to be \$2.6 M.

Although total Provincial funding envelope from 2018-2025 has been maintained at \$125 M, the City of Hamilton's apportionment has fluctuated slightly over that period as a percentage share of the total CSPT allocation.

The funding amount of \$ 5,237,478 for 2025 represents approximately 4.2% of the available funding.

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Table 2	Proportion of City CSPT Expenditures Funded by Province – 2018 to 2025				\$'000
Year	City Share of Prov. CSPT Funding	City CSPT Expenses	% CSPT Expense Funded by Province	CSPT Funding Shortfall	
2018	4,200.9	6,646.4	63%	(2,445.5)	
2019	4,947.3	7,126.3	69%	(2,179.0)	
2020	5,055.3	6,381.7	79%	(1,326.4)	
2021	5,173.0	6,374.8	81%	(1,201.9)	
2022	4,895.1	6,423.8	76%	(1,528.7)	
2023	4,958.3	7,561.4	66%	(2,603.2)	
2024	4,882.7	8,997.1	54%	(4,114.4)	
		Budget			
2025	5,237.5	7,841.9	67%	(2,604.4)	
Notes					
1. 2024 CSPT Expenditures are subject to year-end finalization.					
2. CSPT Expenditures considered above relate to Cost Centre:376332 – Court Services - Court Branch Section					

BACKGROUND

Commencing in 2012, the Ontario government began reimbursing a portion of Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) costs to help municipalities fund the service in their jurisdictions. The City of Hamilton is responsible for the costs of providing security for court premises during hours of court operations and security of persons attending court and / or the costs of transporting prisoners and custodial minors (i.e., persons between twelve and seventeen years of age) between correctional institutions, custodial facilities and court locations for the purposes of court attendance. The CSPT Program will provide a maximum total of \$125 M for 2025 province wide.

An expenditure-based model was used to determine allocation for 2025. Funding is allocated based on each municipality's relative share of the total 2023 CSPT cost across the province. For example, if a municipality's CSPT cost represents 1% of the total provincial CSPT cost, then it will be allocated 1% of the available funding.

Ontario is the only province in Canada where legislation dictates court security be paid for with municipal property tax dollars and delivered through local police service boards via police chiefs.

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Funding is conditional upon the execution of the Agreement for 2025 between the Province and the City by April 18, 2025.

If you have questions or require additional information please contact Kirk Weaver, Acting Director, Financial Planning Administration and Policy at kirk.weaver@hamilton.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None