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## Report 2025-059

**Report Title:** 2024 Court Security Funding

**Committee Name:** Finance and Audit

**Committee Meeting Date:** April 1, 2025

**Prepared by:** Matthew Nitsch  
Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Finance

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** Select Council Meeting Date

**Strategic Plan Priorities:**  Innovate for Service Excellence  
 Ignite Economic Opportunity  
 Foster a Thriving Community  
 Propel Sustainable Growth  
 Champion a Vibrant Future

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### Recommendation

“That the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered Report 2025-059 ‘2024 Court Security Funding’, recommend that County Council approve levy funding in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Town of Cobourg for 2024 court security costs.”

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### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to get County Council’s approval on an amount of levy funding for the Town of Cobourg for 2024 court security costs.

### Background

The Community Safety and Policing Act of Ontario Part XV requires that police services responsible for the jurisdiction where a court operates are responsible for providing court security in that court.

In the case of the courthouse at 860 William Street in Cobourg, this responsibility falls to the Cobourg Police Service (CPS). The court at 860 William Street has five courts. Four of the courts are provincial and the fifth is the Provincial Offenses court that Northumberland County is

responsible for. Court security is provided to all five courts and the building (as a whole) by CPS.

Historically Northumberland County has passed on any Ministry funding that it has received through the Court Security and Prisoner Transportation (CSPT) funding program to the Town of Cobourg. Northumberland County has also provided (up to) \$275,000 in levy funding to the Town of Cobourg for the same purpose.

On December 6, 2023 County Council passed Council Resolution 2023-12-06-850 in response to some security concerns in the Provincial Offenses court. As an employer (and administrator of the court) the County is responsible for the safety of the courtroom staff. Council Resolution 2023-12-06-850 reaffirmed the funding support to the Town of Cobourg for court security but made the voluntary levy funding conditional upon a special constable being present in the Provincial Offenses court when it is in session.

### **Consultations**

Staff have consulted with the Treasurer for the Town of Cobourg, the CAO of the Cobourg Police Service and with POA staff.

### **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Community Safety and Policing Act

### **Discussion / Options**

POA court staff began tracking the court security support on May 17, 2024. For the remainder of the year the court was in session for a total of 113 hours. During this time CPS special constables were present for 46 hours or 41% of the time the court was in session.

We do not have data on the court security coverage prior to May 17<sup>th</sup>. The court was in session for 69 hours between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> for a total of 182 hours that it was in session for the full year.

If we assume that the court security coverage was consistent throughout the entire year, then the coverage for the whole year would be 41% of the that time the court was in session.

Alternatively, if we assume that CPS staff were present 100% of the time from Jan to May then the coverage for the full year would be 115 out of 182 hours or 63% of the time that the court was in session.

### **Financial Impact**

The CPS has reported total court security costs of \$738,914 for 2024. Northumberland County has already paid \$553,015 in ministry CSPT funding to the Town of Cobourg. In order to make the Town of Cobourg and the CPS whole for court security, it would require a payment from Northumberland County of \$185,899 in levy funds.

### **Member Municipality Impacts**

The amount of funding provided has a direct impact on the budget for the CPS and the Town of Cobourg for the 2024 fiscal year.

## **Conclusion / Outcomes**

Council passed Council Resolution 2023-12-06-850 making the amount of levy funding provided by Northumberland County to the Town of Cobourg (for court security) conditional upon a CPS special constable being present in the Provincial Offenses court while it is in session.

Given that, staff are asking for direction from Council on how much levy funding they would like to provide to the Town of Cobourg for court security costs for 2024. The maximum amount necessary to cover all of the 2024 court security costs is \$185,899.

## **Attachments**

- 1) Report 2025-059 ATTACH 1 'Council Resolution 2023-12-06-850 - Court Security Funding Review'
- 2) Report 2025-059 ATTACH 2 'Report 2023-134 Court Security Funding Review'