



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report - Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers -
January 1 to December 31, 2023

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2024-07-03

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to comply with the reporting requirements pursuant to Board By-Law 426-2024 A By-Law Respecting Use of Auxiliaries/Volunteers.
- The reporting period is from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Financial Considerations

The Auxiliary Budget is required for overall administration, recruiting, training, and providing equipment for Auxiliary members.

Auxiliary Budget:

Year	Approved Budget	Actual Budget
2019	\$82,250.00	\$61,039.71
2020	\$83,150.00	\$51,699.73
2021	\$72,250.00	\$24,369.44
2022	\$75,031.00	\$140,727.32
2023	\$110,737.76	\$93,903.00

As of 2017, all Auxiliary Candidates are sent for interviews with a Psychologist, which has increased the overall cost related to the hiring process. Additionally, the Recruiting Unit has taken over the responsibility of the hiring process, formerly a duty assumed by the Auxiliary Command staff which has increased labour costs. The outfitting of the Auxiliary members with only new uniform apparel instead of gently used, has also increased the operating cost.

Analysis

On September 25, 2003, the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Service Board enacted a By-Law in response to the Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulations AI-005 Use of Auxiliaries and AI-006 Use of Volunteers.

By-Law No. 426-2024 a By-Law Respecting the Use of Auxiliaries/Volunteers was enacted as a direct result of Provincial Adequacy Regulations. This By-Law details specific annual reporting requirements. This report has been prepared to address those requirements listed in the By-Law.

Section 5 of the By-Law details the reporting requirements of the Chief of Police:

5.1.1 The Chief of Police shall make a written report to the Board for any requests or recommendations for appointments and initiation of Auxiliary recruiting drives, promotion, demotion, suspension, or termination of the appointment of Auxiliary members of the Service. Appointments, demotions, suspensions, and terminations of Auxiliary members are documented during the year by way of Personnel Orders, which are copied to the Board office.

5.1.2 The Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year. The report will include:

- a) a summary of the written procedures that address the use of Auxiliaries/Volunteers;

General Order 012.11 - Auxiliary Police Service and General Order 025.08 - Volunteer Services meet Ministry Guidelines in compliance with mandated standards.

- b) the status of Service Compliance with said procedures;

Both policies have been reviewed to ensure compliance with Provincial Legislation and the By-Law.

- c) confirmation that Auxiliary members have been trained in accordance with section 4.3.1.

Each Auxiliary member is trained in accordance with legislation that necessitates annual use of force refresher training. Auxiliary members last received training in October 2023.

Auxiliary recruit members receive a total 98 hours training from the Training Unit. In addition, monthly training sessions for all Auxiliary members occur throughout the year. Training modules included mental & spiritual health and crisis response training, Human Trafficking, Tech Crimes, Marine and USRU, Communications and MDT procedures, Victim Services, Fraud, and recruiting practices.

In 2023, two members were bicycle trained and twelve were trained for marine patrol.

- d) generally commenting on the appointment process in respect of auxiliary members;

The Recruiting Unit oversees the recruiting and selection process for the Auxiliary Unit, which commences in January of each year. The process includes a recruitment drive utilizing various social media platforms, recruitment fairs at local post-secondary institutions, and information nights. Additional recruitment information is available on the Service’s website. The Auxiliary selection process is comparable to that of a regular Constable.

Candidates must undergo both written and physical testing, an interview, background investigation, psychological assessment, and medical testing. Auxiliary recruits must then successfully complete training prior to their appointment.

- e) confirming the number and rank of auxiliary members and any changes since the date of the last report;

The complement of the Auxiliary Officers in 2023 consisted of 1 Auxiliary Superintendent, 1 Inspector, 1 Auxiliary Chaplain Inspector, 2 Auxiliary Staff Sergeants, 3 Auxiliary Sergeants, and 49 Auxiliary Constables, for a total of 57 members.

In 2023, the Service had 5 Chaplains, one of which served as an Auxiliary Police Officer, holding the rank of Inspector, and bound by all oaths and requirements of all Auxiliary Police Officers and in accordance with General Order 081.10 – Chaplains.

In May 2023 the Auxiliary Unit hosted the annual recruit graduation ceremony. Fourteen new Auxiliary members were sworn in on this occasion.

The current process for hiring of new Auxiliary Constables is ongoing in order to increase the complement to proactively prepare for anticipated taskings and to replenish the number of members due to turnover.

Yearly Summary of Auxiliary Officers:

	# Auxiliary start of year	Resigned	Hired as Constables NRPS/Other	# Auxiliary end of year	# Auxiliary Chaplains	Chaplain hours	Total hours
2018	61	15	5/4	60	1/6	1201	12528
2019	60	17	4/3	52	1/6	828	10384
2020	52	16	6/5	36	1/5	646.75	1775
2021	36	7	1/4	29	1/5	559.75	1341.75
2022	29	9	1/4	43	1/5	852	7087
2023	43	13	4*/3	44	1/5	446	8822

*1 Communications dispatcher

- f) confirming the work performed by the auxiliary members;

In 2023, the Auxiliary Unit fulfilled 98 taskings and volunteered a total of 8,376 hours to the Service.

Volunteer service included training, administration, special events, community-oriented initiatives, uniform patrol, assistance with other units such as ETU, Training, and Recruiting.

Community oriented initiatives includes on-going participation with and attendance at parades, spring food drive, RIDE program, and special events.

- g) an indication of resources used and costs associated with the Niagara Regional Auxiliary Police Service.

Alternatives Reviewed

There are no alternatives to review.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

Members of the Niagara Regional Auxiliary Police Service continue to provide extensive support and service to the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) and the Niagara Community without receiving monetary compensation.

The Auxiliary Unit has taken part in several community and directed patrol initiatives, high visibility patrol with uniform officers, and assistance with emergency response training.

The NRPS has complied with the requirements pursuant to Board By-law 426-2024.

Relevant Policy Considerations

By-Law 426-2024 - Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers

General Order 012.11 – Auxiliary Police Service

General Order 025.08 – Volunteer Services

General Order 081.10 - Chaplains

Other Pertinent Reports

There are no other pertinent reports.

This report was prepared by Detective Sergeant Nicole Abbott, Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief, Operational Services, and recommended by David Masotti, Acting Deputy Chief of Police, Operational Services.

T. WASELOVICH

Submitted by:

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Acting Chief of Police

Appendices

Not Applicable