



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: 2025 Budget Amendment - Homeland Security Investigations
Border Enforcement Security Task Force Position

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-03-07

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) approve

- 1. Approve a 2025 Operating Budget amendment in the amount of \$162,600.00, funded by a transfer from the Police Contingency Reserve Fund, to temporarily fund this position for the period of March 1 to December 31, 2025.**
- 2. Submit this report to Niagara Regional Council for approval of the budget amendment funded by the Police Contingency Reserve Fund.**

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for a budget amendment to the 2025 Operating Budget in the amount of \$162,600.00 required to fund the secondment Detective Sergeant position that will become part of the Homeland Security Investigations Border Enforcement Security (BEST) Task Force.
- For the 2025 budget year, the Service will fund this position temporarily with a draw from the Police Contingency Reserve Fund in the amount of \$162,600.00.
- The primary mission of BEST is to combat emerging and existing transnational criminal organizations by employing a full range of international law enforcement agencies in the effort to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle these organizations at every level of operation.

Financial Considerations

There is no cost recovery for the participation of a Service Detective Sergeant in BEST. In the first year of a Detective Sergeant's participation in BEST, the Service would incur costs of approximately \$195,147.66 inclusive of salary, benefits, allowances, and other premiums. This total cost would increase incrementally per year with any gains realized for this rank as per the Collective Agreement.

For the 2025 budget year, the Service will temporarily fund this position with Police Contingency Reserve Funds. There are sufficient funds available in the Contingency

Reserve Fund to temporarily fund this position for the 2025 budget year. Contingency Reserve Funds are held to offset cost pressures resulting from unanticipated changes in operational requirements.

The recommended draw from this fund is \$162,600.00 to cover the position from March 1 to December 31, 2025.

A permanent funding source will need to be determined for 2026 should this position continue to be required. The Service has applied for funding from the Ministry of Solicitor General to augment national/ border security; included in this request is funding for a member of the Service to participate in BEST.

Analysis

At the Board meeting held on February 27, 2025, the Board approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will second a Detective Sergeant to participate in the BEST program that will support the mandates of national and United States (U.S.) law enforcement partners to increase border security and enhance efforts in preventing criminality.

The Service will fund a Detective Sergeant to work alongside Canadian and U.S. law enforcement partners in combatting criminality that is transnational in nature for the 2025 year with contingency fund reserves.

The primary mission of BEST is to combat emerging and existing transnational criminal organizations by employing a full range of international law enforcement agencies in the effort to identify, investigate, disrupt, and dismantle these organizations at every level of operation. The BEST investigative model is a comprehensive response to the growing threat to border security, public safety, and Canadian and U.S. security. BEST eliminates the barriers between law enforcement partners and closes the gap with international partners in multinational criminal investigations.

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

The budget preparation process is conducted in consideration of regional objectives, with efforts to balance the information requirements of the Regional Municipality of Niagara (Region) as outlined in the Municipal Act with the accountabilities of the Board under the Community Safety and Policing Act.

Relevant Policy Considerations

- Region's By-Law 2017-63 Budget Control for the Regional Municipality of Niagara
- Region's By-Law 2019-79 Budget Planning Requirements for the Regional Municipality of Niagara
- Board By-Law 412-2024 Financial Reporting, Control and Procurement of Goods and Services in the Niagara Regional Police Service

Other Pertinent Reports

C8.3 – 2025.02.06 Homeland Security Investigations Border Enforcement Security Task Force Memorandum of Understanding

This report was prepared by Laura Rullo, Director, Finance and Asset Management, in consultation with Dave Masotti, Superintendent, Investigative Services. Recommended by Sandy Staniforth, Acting Deputy Chief, Support Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.