



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers for 2024
Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board
Report Date: 2025-07-01

Recommendation(s)

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

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (Service) is in compliance with By-Law 426-2024 – Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers.
- The Chief of Police is required to make a written annual report to the Board with respect to the use of auxiliaries and volunteers.
- The reporting period is from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

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 |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 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 |
| 2024 | \$82,050.00 | \$85,315.16 |

As of 2017, all Auxiliary candidates are sent for interviews with a psychologist, to help determine suitability, 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

By-Law 426-2024 – Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers, was enacted as a result of reporting requirements pursuant to the Ministry of Community Safety and Corrections Services Guideline, related to the use of auxiliaries and volunteers as outlined in Provincial Adequacy Standards Regulation AI-005, Use of Auxiliaries, and AI-006, Use of Volunteers.

In accordance with By-Law 426-2024, the Chief of Police shall make a written report to the Board each year, that shall include:

- a) a summary of the written procedures that address the use of auxiliaries/volunteers;
- b) the status of Service compliance with said procedures;
- c) confirmation that auxiliary members have been trained in accordance with section 4.3.1;
- d) generally commenting on the appointment process in respect of auxiliary members;
- e) confirming the number and rank of auxiliary members and any changes since the date of the last report;
- f) confirming the work performed by the auxiliary members; and
- g) an indication of resources used and costs associated with the Niagara Regional Auxiliary Police Service.

The Board report will outline each of the above and confirm our compliance with the By-Law:

- a) *“... a summary of 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 and are in compliance with mandated standards.

- b) *“... the status of Service compliance with said procedures...”*

Both General Orders 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 2024.

Auxiliary recruit members receive a total 98 hours of training facilitated by the Training Unit. In addition, monthly training sessions for all auxiliary members occur throughout the year. Training modules included mental and spiritual health, crisis response training, human trafficking, tech crimes, marine and underwater search and rescue, communications and mobile data terminal procedures, victim services, fraud, and recruiting practices. In 2024, 2 members were bicycle trained and 17 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 Police 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 Auxiliary Officers in 2024 consisted of 1 Auxiliary Inspector, 2 Auxiliary Staff Sergeants, 2 Auxiliary Sergeants, 2 Auxiliary Acting Sergeants, and 52 Auxiliary Constables, for a total complement of 59 members.

In 2024, the Service had 4 Chaplains who are bound by all oaths and requirements of all Auxiliary Police Officers and in accordance with General Order 081.10 – Chaplains.

In May 2024, the Auxiliary Unit hosted the annual recruit graduation ceremony. Twelve 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 |
|------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| 2024 | 44 | 11 | 8/1 | 47 | 4 | 463 | 9141 |

**1 Communications dispatcher*

f) "... confirming the work performed by the auxiliary members..."

In 2024, the Auxiliary Unit fulfilled 100 taskings and volunteered a total of 8,678 hours to the Service.

Volunteer service included training, administration, special events, community-oriented initiatives, uniform patrol, assistance with other units such as the Emergency Task Unit, Public Order Unit Training, and Recruiting.

Community oriented initiatives included 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..."

Refer to the Financial Considerations section.

Alternatives Reviewed

There are no alternatives to review.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with Adequacy and Effective Policing requirements.

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.

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

8.18 – 2024.07.25 – Annual Report – Use of Auxiliaries and Volunteers – January 1 to December 31, 2023.

This report was prepared by Nicole Abbott, Detective Sergeant, Executive Officer to the Deputy Chiefs of Police, Community & Operational Services, and recommended by Mario Lagrotteria, Deputy Chief of Police, Community Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not Applicable