Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 5, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Allocation and Care of Winnipeg Police Service Canines (Dogs)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee laid over the matter for 90 days in order to obtain clarification as to whether the proposed policy is the formal approval of existing practice / policy or if this is all new policy.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,

That the matter be laid over for 90 days in order to obtain clarification as to whether the proposed policy is the formal approval of existing practice / policy or if this is all new policy.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Allocation and Care of Winnipeg Police Service Canines (Dogs)

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
Insp. J. Lutz	Chief D. Smyth	M. Ruta	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Establishing process for the allocation of surplus puppies and retired Winnipeg Police Service dogs provides a template for all future transactions to ensure a transparent, consistent, and approved approach. The following recommendations support the established canine program, while allowing more effective and efficient management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements for the allocation and care of Winnipeg Police Service dogs as follows:

   a) For puppies/dogs (trained or not) to be sold to other municipalities, police departments, companies, brokers or private individuals;

   b) For puppies (trained or not) to be used as a valued asset in the purchase transaction of dogs (trained or not) from other municipalities, police departments, companies, brokers or private individuals;

   c) For puppies, which are surplus or do not appear to have the necessary attributes to be trained as police service dogs, to be made available for public adoption;

   d) For retired Winnipeg Police Service dogs to be placed into the care of their past handlers, at the option of the past handler, or another qualified handler with the City retaining ownership;

   e) For retired Winnipeg Police Service dogs to be sold to their past handlers for $1.00, at the option of the past handler or another qualified handler;

   and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the “Ancillary Agreements”).

2. That Winnipeg Police Service dogs that pose unmanageable risk to the public and handlers, or retired Winnipeg Police Service dogs whose health, wellbeing, placement, or care is unmanageable, creating unnecessary liability for the City, may be euthanized at the discretion of the Chief of the Winnipeg Police Service or his/her delegate.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the above agreements on an ongoing basis regarding the allocation or care of the Winnipeg Police Service dogs and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

4. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to arrange for the allocation of Winnipeg Police Service dogs in the manner set out above and to enter into agreements for the allocation or care of the Winnipeg Police Service dogs.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations will solidify a self-sustaining breeding program process to ensure the City retains the best trained dogs, purchases breeding males and females, and generates revenue from surplus puppies and dogs, to offset operational costs.

The recommendations will address liability issues surrounding the sale and care of Winnipeg Police Service puppies and dogs through legal agreements.

The recommendations support the developed bond between the retired dogs and past handlers which is in the best interest of the dogs as they age.

The recommendations address unmanageable risk and liability for The City of Winnipeg through euthanasia which may be undertaken as a last resort.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In 1999, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) started an in-house breeding program. This program is housed under the WPS Canine unit, and is part of the WPS Special Operations Group. The Canine Unit provides operational support to front line policing in the City of Winnipeg.

Prior to the development of the in-house breeding program, the WPS purchased dogs from brokers. This was costly and did not always result in obtaining suitable dogs. The WPS Canine Unit must procure dogs that meet specific standards. Proven bloodlines coupled with proficient training translate into operational success in Canine operations.

In 2013, the WPS opened its new Canine facility. The facility supports WPS Canine operations, and its in-house breeding program. The facility and associated programs care for approximately 23 puppies and dogs.

Dogs are bred and trained, providing trained general patrol dogs and specialty profile dogs to the WPS. On average, approximately 90% of the puppies that have been bred and trained by

the WPS for police work passed the required courses to become police service dogs and were directed for policing. The WPS must allocate the surplus puppies and dogs.

Currently, the WPS has breeding males and females to ensure a supply of puppies well into the future. The WPS retains two potential puppies for every projected vacancy within its training program. The WPS tests all the puppies and retains the ones exhibiting the best drive with the most potential.

Most police agencies do not want puppies but rather young trained dogs. Surplus puppies need to be sold, but care is taken as to whom they are sold to. The goal is to have WPS litter puppies and dogs working first and foremost for the WPS. Surplus dogs will then be allocated in the following order:

a) sales to other police agencies;
b) sales to security companies and/or brokers;
c) sales to private individuals.

1. Allocation and Care of WPS Dogs:

a) That the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements for puppies/dogs (trained or not) to be sold to other municipalities/police departments, companies, or brokers;

Puppies are assessed on a daily basis for several months in different environments in order to identify those puppies the WPS plans to retain. The WPS Canine Unit Supervisor is the WPS's subject matter expert regarding dogs and it is his or her responsibility to determine the following:

a) The dogs that are going to be retained and utilized by the WPS;

b) The dogs that will not be used by the WPS but are suitable for law enforcement or security related work;

c) The dogs that are unsuitable for law enforcement or security related work; and

d) The dogs that need to be euthanized as they pose a danger to others.

The value of each dog varies depending on the amount of training that is invested in the puppy/dog before selling it.

The WPS has established business relationships in the canine policing field throughout North America. These relationships have been beneficial, and the WPS regularly receives enquiries for surplus puppies and dogs from agencies in North America.

b) That the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements for puppies (trained or not) to be used as a valued asset in the purchase transaction of dogs (trained or not) from other municipalities/police departments, companies, brokers or private individuals;

The WPS purchases breeding males and females outside of its genetic bloodline from municipalities, police departments, companies, brokers or private individuals and in some cases sellers wish to obtain existing puppies or future litter puppies within the sales transaction.

Due to the unique behavior and temperament of animals, the WPS Canine Unit may be required to sole source the acquisition of dogs into the program from specific municipalities, police departments, companies, brokers or private individuals to ensure successful integration. The use of an RFP process for dog acquisition is ineffective due to many variables unique to the individual dog, which include genetics, age, training, and process timeliness. When purchasing dogs, these external parties sometimes request surplus puppies within the purchase transaction, which assists with the placement of surplus puppies and allows the purchaser to invest the training and costs into the puppies destined for police work.

c) ***That puppies which are surplus or do not appear to have the necessary attributes to be trained as police service dogs be made available for public adoption;***

The City of Winnipeg has had discussions and intends to enter into an agreement with The Winnipeg Humane Society for the WPS Canine Unit to donate its surplus puppies which cannot be placed or sold. These puppies will be anonymously adopted under their normal adoption plan, with no reference to the origin of the puppies. A puppy is defined as being less than 5 months and 3 weeks of age.

Dogs that are more than 5 months and three weeks old, some of which may have received police training, will require the Winnipeg Humane Society to work collaboratively with the WPS Commander of Division 50 and the Superintendent of Operational Support to find appropriate homes for them.

The City of Winnipeg does not pay or receive revenue for this service.

The Winnipeg Police Service Canine Unit will utilize this process as a last resort for the allocation of surplus puppies from the program as it does not aid in program cost recovery.

d) That the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements for retired WPS dogs to be placed into the care of their past handlers, at the option of the past handler, or another qualified handler with the City retaining ownership;

When working dogs are retired from the service, placement is considered. At the option of each handler, an agreement developed by Legal Services may be entered into whereby the WPS dog is retired into the care of its past handler or another qualified handler. The terms of the agreement will ensure that the City's interests are protected and that the retired canine's needs are met.

e) That the City enter into, execute and deliver agreements for retired WPS dogs to be sold to their past handlers for $1.00, at the option of the past handler or another qualified handler;

When working dogs are retired from service, placement is considered. At the option of each WPS canine handler, an agreement developed by Legal Services may be entered into whereby the WPS dog will be sold to its past handler or another qualified handler for $1.00 upon the retirement of the dog. The terms of the agreement will ensure that the City's interests are protected and that the retired canine's needs are met.

2. Euthanasia of WPS Dogs:

That WPS dogs that pose unmanageable risk to the public, and handlers or retired WPS dogs whose health, wellbeing, placement, or care is unmanageable, creating unnecessary liability for the City, may be euthanized;

Due to the risk to the public and handler, the WPS has euthanized working dogs that have exhibited unmanageable vicious behavior. Since the 1990's, three working dogs have been euthanized to mitigate the risk.

The WPS takes care to ensure all possible alternative solutions have been explored before utilizing euthanasia as a last resort.

The WPS, in consultation with its designated veterinarian has euthanized retired dogs when it is in the best interest of the health and wellbeing of the dog.

On May 30, 2017 the Winnipeg Police Board received this report from the Winnipeg Police Service for review and consideration. On May 31, 2017, through communication from the acting Executive Director, the Winnipeg Police Board advised that it accepted this report for information, and indicated that the Winnipeg Police Service may proceed with the submission of this report, as it is administrative in nature and within the authority of the Chief of Police.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: May 12, 2017

Project Name:
Canine Retirement

First Year of Program **2017**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: While there is a financial impact it is difficult to assess this as to volume of activity, and quantity of costs. These numbers would not be significant and such will be absorbed into the budget as required. At times revenues from sale of dogs would offset the incremental cost of retirement dogs or placement to a non-police facility.

original signed by Ron Smolik May 12/17
Manager of Finance
Winnipeg Police Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Community Services Department, Animal Services Agency
Corporate Finance, Materials Management Division
Legal Services Department (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01-2a COLLABORATE TO MAKE SAFE COMMUNITIES
Direction 1: Provide a visible and effective community police presence.

SUBMITTED BY

Department:	Winnipeg Police Service
Division:	50
Prepared by:	Inspector Jon Lutz
Date:	May 23, 2017
File No.	MMD – 658-2013
	WPS – ODS 17-016