Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 21, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) Contribution Agreement

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program funding of up to $3,490,199 from His Majesty The King In Right In Canada, as represented by the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs ("Canada") be approved.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with Canada (the "Agreement") for the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program funding and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief, Winnipeg Police Service, to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Agreement with Canada, the Ancillary Agreements, and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor 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.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Councillor Santos asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) Contribution Agreement

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Nicholson	A. Stannard, A/Chief	L. Gavrilova-Crozier, A/CFO	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Safety Canada (PSC) has engaged the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) in discussions regarding the Government of Canada's national initiative aimed at enhancing public safety by removing prohibited firearms from circulation in Canadian communities.

The Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) will provide financial support to the City of Winnipeg to cover all costs incurred by the Winnipeg Police Service in collecting and transporting assault-style firearms (ASFs) from licensed individual owners participating in the ASFCP, providing temporary storage of ASFs, and associated administration relating to the project.

The estimated costs for the WPS's participation in the ASFCP are $3,490,199. The City is required to enter into a contribution agreement in order to receive these funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program funding of up to $3,490,199 from His Majesty The King In Right In Canada, as represented by the Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs ("Canada") be approved.

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a contribution agreement with Canada (the "Agreement") for the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program funding 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").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief, Winnipeg Police Service to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Agreement with Canada, the Ancillary Agreements, 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 approve funding and enter into the contribution agreement with the Government of Canada.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendation set out in this report will allow the City to enter into a contribution agreement with Canada and receive funds to cover all Winnipeg Police Service costs associated with the administration, collection, transport, and storage of assault-style firearms from licensed individual owners in the City of Winnipeg who are voluntarily participating in Canada's Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On May 1, 2020, the Government of Canada (Canada) banned 1,500 assault-style firearms (ASFs) and variants as part of its comprehensive strategy to tackle gun violence in Canada. With additional ASFs added since then, more than 2,000 makes and models are now banned. An amnesty order protects licensed firearms businesses and owners from criminal liability until October 30, 2025.

Canada advises that the Assault-Style Firearms Compensation Program (ASFCP) complements the prohibition of assault-style firearms and supports the Government's mandate and commitment to safely and securely remove these firearms from Canadian communities.

The ASFCP provides compensation to businesses and individual owners affected by the prohibition. It also provides funding to police services to facilitate the collection and disposal of assault-style firearms (ASFs) from eligible firearm owners in their jurisdiction.

Canada will cover all costs associated with the Winnipeg Police Service's (WPS) participation in the ASFCP, including:

- planning, coordination and administration of a project to securely remove ASFs from individual owners; and
- collection, verification, transportation and storage of ASFs.

Disposal of the prohibited firearms will be performed by a third party designated by the federal government.

Based on previous municipal and provincial firearms amnesties, the WPS has developed a project plan to collect ASFs, which will include the use of Special Duty police services to mitigate negative impacts on police resources and responses to calls for service, as well as dedicated secure storage for the collected firearms. The estimated costs for the WPS to participate in the ASFCP are $3,490,199.

No costs will be borne by the Winnipeg Police Service or the City of Winnipeg for the WPS's participation in the ASFCP. The exception is ASFs that are determined to be crime guns and deemed ineligible for compensation, in which case associated police investigations or other law enforcement activities would be part of the WPS's regular business.

Upon expiry of the amnesty order on October 30, 2025, costs associated with law enforcement activities involving prohibited ASFs are the responsibility of the police service of jurisdiction.

The expected duration of WPS participation in the ASFCP is from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

On December 20, 2024, the Winnipeg Police Board received this report from the Winnipeg Police Service for review and consideration. On December 21, 2024, through communication from the Board Administrator, the Winnipeg Police Board advised that it accepted this report, and indicated that the Winnipeg Police Service may proceed with the submission of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: 12/20/2024

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2025**

Contribution Agreement - Assault Style Firearms Compensation Program

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
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	$ 3,490,199		$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	3,490,199	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts		-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Total expected program costs are funded by the Contribution Agreement with Public Safety Canada. No additional funding is being requested. Expected duration of Winnipeg Police Service participation in the program is January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Tara Holowka December 20, 2024

Tara Holowka, CPA, CGA
Executive Director of Finance
Winnipeg Police Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services
- Winnipeg Police Board

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The recommendations of this report align with the overarching *OurWinnipeg 2045* goal of Good Health and Well-Being.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Winnipeg Police Service
Division: Executive
Prepared by: Kim Nicholson, Executive Director
Date: December 23, 2024
File No: N/A