Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 17, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Creation of Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That a new capital project ("Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project") be established in 2025 with a Class 5 capital cost estimate and budget of $524,010, funded through reallocated funds from the 2021 Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project.

2. 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 Eadie,

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

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Creation of Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Nicholson	Chief G. Bowers	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) is recommending the creation of a new Capital Project in 2025 for a multiphase expansion of the firearm investigative analysis capacity of the WPS.

Associated renovations within WPS Headquarters and relevant studies of a suitable location for the firearms lab expansion will be funded through the reallocation of surplus provincial funds from the Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project. Council authorization is required to establish the capital project and reallocate the required funding within the WPS capital budget. No additional capital funding is being requested.

In July 2023, the Government of Manitoba announced $5.2 million as an initial investment for the establishment of a provincial firearms laboratory. In consultation with Manitoba Justice, the WPS will implement a multi-phased expansion of its firearm investigative analysis capacity. The WPS will provide on-site Canadian Integrated Ballistic Identification System (CIBIN) searches of expended cartridge cases for all Manitoba police agencies (Phase 1). In order to further advance firearm-related investigations across the province, capital improvements within WPS Headquarters are required (Phase 2). The final phase will involve identification and fit-up of a suitable location for expansion of the WPS's Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) to include a firearms laboratory (Phase 3). In addition to the capital costs, Manitoba Justice is providing funds to cover operating costs associated with the provincewide services of FIAS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a new capital project ("Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project") be established in 2025 with a Class 5 capital cost estimate and budget of $524,010, funded through reallocated funds from the 2021 Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project.

2. 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 authorization is required to establish the Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project and the reallocation of the required funding within the WPS capital budget.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of this Report will permit the WPS to proceed with the capital improvements within the WPS Headquarters and any relevant studies necessary to advance the expansion of FIAS and establishment of a provincial firearms laboratory.

Costs of the project are to be paid by the WPS through reallocation of surplus provincial funds from the Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project as agreed to by Manitoba Justice and authorized by the Winnipeg Police Board.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The RCMP operates and maintains the Canadian Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (CIBIN) in Canada. CIBIN is a national network of Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) instruments that collect, analyze and correlate fired bullets and cartridge cases in a central database to generate investigative leads for police. Forensic ballistics analysts work with bullets, cartridges cases and firearms recovered from crime scenes, and other firearms of interest to police, to create forensic intelligence and provide operational support.

In 2020, the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) began completing on-site CIBIN searches of expended cartridge cases, in partnership with the RCMP National Forensic Laboratory (NFLS) CIBIN Correlation Centre. The WPS installed IBIS instrumentation and Firearms Forensic Technicians were trained as Certified IBIS Operators.

CIBIN can link firearms crimes from anywhere across Canada or crime scenes where the same firearm may have been discharged even if the firearm has not been recovered. CIBIN allows police to have evidence compared against any evidence from across the country, and against evidence entered into the U.S. National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN).

The ability for the WPS to complete on-site CIBIN searches, in partnership with the CIBIN Correlation Centre, has reduced the time to receive results from approximately 365 days to less than three days. Since the inception of this program, WPS has developed over 200 CIBIN Leads, linking incidents both locally and across Canada.

Recognizing the impact that this program had on WPS investigations, in July 2023, the Government of Manitoba announced an initial capital investment of $5.2 million and annual operating funds for the WPS to expand its capacity so that all Manitoba police agencies could benefit from timely CIBIN results to advance firearm-related investigations.

In consultation with Manitoba Justice, the WPS will implement a multi-phased expansion of its firearm investigative analysis capacity.

The first phase will commence in May 2025 with the WPS, in partnership with the CIBIN Correlation Centre, providing CIBIN search results of expended cartridge cases subject to *Criminal Code* offences for all Manitoba police agencies.

To further advance firearm-related investigations by police agencies across the province, capital improvements within WPS Headquarters are required as there is insufficient workspace to accommodate additional Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) members. All costs associated with the capital improvements will be funded through the reallocation of provincial funds. Manitoba Justice has committed funded for all ongoing operating costs.

To expand WPS FIAS to include a provincial firearms laboratory, a suitable location will need to be identified and assessed for fit-up requirements. The costs associated with the necessary studies will be funded through the reallocation of provincial funds. Following which, further discussions with Manitoba Justice will be necessary before moving forward.

New 2025 Capital Project

The Winnipeg Police Board is responsible for allocating the budget to the WPS after Council approval [section 29(3) of *The Police Services Act*, 75(9) of the *Winnipeg Police Board Rules of Practice and Procedure*, Section 7.1 Policy No. 2 of the *Manitoba Police Boards: Policy and Procedure (Manitoba Police Commission, 2018)*]. As referenced in the Delegation of Financial Authority Administrative Report submitted to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance on February 14, 2022, by the Chief Financial Officer, the Winnipeg Police Board manages the allocations of approved capital projects within the adopted capital budget envelope of the WPS.

Renovations within WPS Headquarters and relevant studies of a suitable location for the firearms lab expansion will be funded through the reallocation of surplus provincial funds from the Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project. Manitoba Justice has agreed to the reallocation. No additional capital funding is being requested.

On April 24, 2025, the Winnipeg Police Board approved the reallocation of the capital funds from the Council-approved Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells Capital Project to the Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project.

Details of the reallocation are as follows:

Project Name	Project Details and Implications	Budget Implications
Central Processing Unit New and Modified Holding Cells	Construction of new holding cells and improvements to the Central Processing Unit in WPS Headquarters. • Funding provided by the Government of Manitoba in 2021. • Construction and improvement completed, with final project funds expended in August 2023. • Manitoba Justice has agreed to reallocation of the unspent funds for expansion of FIAS.	$3.5M (2021) $0.524 unspent
Firearms Investigative Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion	Construction of workspace in WPS HQ to accommodate additional FIAS members and exploration of a suitable location for further expansion of FIAS to include a provincial firearms lab. • Government of Manitoba committed to an initial capital investment of $5.2 million. • Reallocation of existing provincial funds will partially support a multi-phased expansion.	$0.524 (2025)

On April 23, 2025, the Winnipeg Police Board received this report from the Winnipeg Police Service for review and consideration. On April 24, 2025, through communication from the Executive Director and Secretary, 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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 22, 2025

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2025**

Creation of Firearms Investigative and Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 524,010				
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	524,010				
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - Transfer from Current Year Authority	524,010				
Total Funding	$ 524,010	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
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: These funds are being reallocated from project # 6322000021 (Central Processing Unit expansion) to fund the FIAS expansion as approved by the Province of Manitoba.

Kerri Kreitz April 22, 2025
Kerri Kreitz, CPA, CGA

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Winnipeg Police Board

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Winnipeg Police Service
Division: Executive Offices
Prepared by: Kim Nicholson, Executive Director of Strategic Affairs
File No.
Date: April 24, 2025

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Winnipeg Police Service – Firearms Investigative and Analysis Section (FIAS) Expansion Capital Project – Detail Sheet