



Council report

Meeting date:	September 20, 2022
Title:	Owen Sound Police Costing correspondence
Prepared by:	Laura Johnston, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation

That report CAO-Owen Sound Police Costing correspondence be received, and further

That staff be directed to proceed with the proposal received to date.

Executive summary

In April 2022, the municipality invited proposals for the provision of policing services in West Grey. Interested and eligible police services had until May 17, 2022, to register their interest. All eligible proponents would then receive the West Grey Police Service Profile information sheet to assist in the preparation of their proposal, due September 13, 2022. At the May 17, 2022 deadline, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Owen Sound Police Services (OSPS) were confirmed as the only interested proponents. The information sheet was to be provided and was delivered by June 3, 2022.

Correspondence from OSPS was received on September 12, 2022 by email, requesting an extension, stating they are unable to submit a proposal based on the information sheet provided. This report outlines the expectations of the RFP, the chronology, and the outreach from West Grey to the OSPS.

Background and discussion

On April 27, 2022, the municipality issued an invitation for eligible police services to register their interest in providing a proposal for the provision of policing services in West Grey. The process was outlined as follows:

Request for Proposal

The council of the Municipality of West Grey is inviting proposals for the provision of policing services in this community. Interested, and eligible, police services are required to register with the municipality to receive a confidential bid package. The bid package will contain pertinent information regarding the current policing service, including relevant operational information to enable proponents to provide a costing, a service level proposal, and a transition plan.



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Two policing services were confirmed as interested parties: the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Owen Sound Police Services (OSPS).

On May 31, 2022, a letter was sent from West Grey's CAO to OSPS Chief Ambrose detailing the timelines:

- Police service profile to be provided on or before June 3, 2022
- Proposals due on or before September 13, 2022. Proposals to be submitted in a sealed envelope, to be forwarded, unopened, to the cost consultant team.
- Cost consultant will be presenting to West Grey council in September 2022 to outline their process and community consultation
- Consultant and proponents will present to West Grey council in early 2023
- Council will be required to decide by March 2023.

West Grey Police Chief Martin has advised that the service profile information sheet was provided to both proponents, as required. Specifically, the OSPS received a hand-delivered copy during their tour of the WGPS station in the spring. The OPP received their copy prior to June 3rd. Further, WGPS resent the information sheet by email on August 3, as requested.

Regarding the September 7 correspondence that was received by email on September 12, the following clarification is helpful:

- In response to the June 21 inquiry from OSPS, West Grey's CAO responded on June 21 to confirm timelines and that, should the cost consultant require a revised schedule, all parties would be advised.
- In response to the July 29 inquiry from OSPS, West Grey's CAO confirmed on July 29 that the municipality is requesting OSPS and OPP provide proposals based on the police service profile sheet. The CAO committed to following up with WGPS that the profile sheet had been sent, and the CAO received that confirmation from WGPS.

It is important to note that the CAO enquired if OSPS required an extension, which could have been accommodated at that point in the process. Had OSPS requested the extension, that extension would have also been offered to the OPP.

- Regarding the statement from OSPS in their letter that West Grey was three months late in providing information, it has been clarified in this report that the police service profile sheet was not late in being provided to the OSPS as they received a copy during their spring tour.

It is also worth noting that West Grey's CAO followed up one further time on August 17 with OSPS to confirm they received the profile sheet and to, once again, offer an extension. The extension would have been offered to the OPP as well, given the OPP had not yet submitted their proposal.



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- On September 9, OSPS advised the CAO that a letter will be coming from the City of Owen Sound. That letter, dated September 7, was emailed to West Grey on September 12 and added to the September 20 West Grey council agenda.
- On September 7, the OPP bid package was received at the West Grey administration office and sent by Purolator to MNP consultants. MNP consultants signed delivery receipt on September 9.

It is important to note that there remains a continued interest from the OSPS to pursue a joint regional policing model. However, the current process that West Grey council has approved is to receive proposals for alternate policing services in West Grey that required interested parties to provide “a costing, a service level proposal and a transition plan”.

Despite the attempts from West Grey to ensure OSPS had what they needed to provide a proposal and offering extensions to submit a proposal, neither the municipality nor the WGPS received any requests from OSPS for more time or more information, until the September 7 letter that was sent September 12. The municipal procurement process, at this point, does not afford any options for the corporation, and the corporation is bound to proceed with the proposal received.

Legal and legislated requirements

Not applicable to this report.

Financial and resource implications

Not applicable to this report.

Staffing implications

Not applicable to this report.

Consultation

WGPS Chief Martin

Attachments

None.

Next steps

On council direction to proceed with the proposal received to date, staff will advise Chief Ambrose, Owen Sound Police Services.



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Respectfully submitted:

Laura Johnston
Chief Administrative Officer