



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 23, 2006
From: Shawn Issel **File:** 09-5130-00/Vol 01
 Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs
Re: Lower Mainland District Integration Initiatives - Forensic Identification Services, Police Dog Services, Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services

Staff Recommendation

That the attached staff report regarding the proposed Lower Mainland District integration initiatives - Forensic Identification Services, Police Dog Services, and Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services be received for information.

Shawn Issel
 Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs
 (4184)

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ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
R.C.M.P.		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO (ACTING.)	
				YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At a meeting of the RCMP Lower Mainland District CAO's and PPC's in September, staff were advised the RCMP is preparing business cases for three integration initiatives – Forensic Identification Services, Police Dog Services, and Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services.

Although the Business Cases are still being developed, staff wanted to ensure Council was provided a brief overview of the rationale and proposed timing for each of these integration initiatives.

Analysis

The Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services integration has not begun. However, a Phase I integration was implemented for partial integration of Police Dog Services in September, 2005 and Forensic Identification Services in October, 2005.

FIS (Forensic Identification Services)

The objectives of the FIS Phase I integration were to streamline the supervision of FIS Units, centralizing most administrative duties to allow frontline supervisors to spend more time on operational duties and the supervision of Apprentices and Technicians, and creating an OIC at the LMD responsible for FIS, thereby centralizing the authority for FIS.

Before the partial integration Richmond had one FIS Unit consisting of a sergeant and three corporals. The Phase I integration realigned shift schedules throughout the district to increase coverage and to ensure that available resources were scheduled to meet demand. It centralized the management and administration of equipment and staff through a change in the reporting from a Detachment Commander to an LMD Commander. The rationale provided by the LMD for this partial integration is that the detachment model decentralizes resources to the extent that it is difficult to:

- coordinate and standardize the purchase of equipment
- ensure consistent shift coverage due to annual leaves, illness, training, etc.
- ensure availability of specialist supervision to apprentices, with a potential increase in apprentices failing assessments and/or faulty processing of crime scenes
- ensure access to equipment, impacting performance and the ability to provide coverage to another jurisdiction if necessary
- ensure a consistent level of administrative support, requiring some units to do more administrative work than others

Police Dog Services

The objectives of the Phase I integration were to streamline supervision, allowing frontline supervisors to spend more time responding to calls, creating a Staff Sergeant at the LMD

responsible for Police Dog Services, thereby centralizing the authority for Police Dog Services and the establishment of a regular training schedule.

Before the partial integration there were five dog teams at the Richmond Detachment. The Phase I integration realigned shift schedules throughout the district to increase coverage and to ensure that available resources were scheduled to meet demand. It centralized the management and administration of equipment and staff through a change in the reporting structure from a Detachment Commander to an LMD Commander. The rationale provided by the LMD for this partial integration is that the detachment model decentralizes resources to the extent that it is difficult to:

- ensure consistent shift coverage due to annual leaves, illness, training, etc.
- ensure regular training days
- ensure exposure to a practical and wide breadth of experience either directly or through an experienced frontline supervisor
- standardize vehicles and equipment, due to varying levels of budget available at the detachment
- standardize radios, because some jurisdictions fall outside of E-Comm's range

Phase II -- FIS and Police Dog Services

In Phase II, the financial management of the budgets will be transferred from the Detachment Commanders to the LMD Police Dog Services and Forensic Identification Services Commanders. In order to finalize the business case for Phase II, financial and performance measures will be collected from each detachment. These measures would form the basis of a standardized financial formula. Communities would be charged based on this funding formula. Therefore, these financial and performance measures will be important in order to understand the impact that the Phase I integration of these two initiatives has had on the detachment's ability to maintain service levels, and whether the costs for these services has increased or decreased.

Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services

Collision Reconstructionists and Analysts provide expert technical evidence and apply forensic investigation related to collisions. They undergo extensive training and are recognized by the courts as expert witnesses.

At present, Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services are not integrated. Workload issues and limited promotional opportunities are creating challenges to the recruitment and retention of Reconstructionists and Analysts. The objectives of this integration initiative are to improve supervision and assessment, to maintain frontline resources, and to retain experience in a highly specialized field. A business case is being prepared which will recommend full integration in place by April, 2008 utilizing the Integrated Funding Formula (used for IHIT and ERT).

Next Steps

A small subcommittee of RCMP and municipal staff has been assembled to review the business case proposals and report back to the next meeting of the Lower Mainland District CAO's and PPC's scheduled for January 30, 2007. Some of the questions that staff will be asking - where are these units located? how much time are they spending in each municipality? once the costs are identified what is the equivalent in manpower? The LMD is targeting April, 2008 to implement Phase II.

Financial Impact

None at this time.

Conclusion

The Lower Mainland District has integrated Police Dog Services and Forensic Identification Services but is still in the process of identifying an equitable funding formula. A third business case is being prepared to integrate Collision Reconstruction and Analysis Services. Staff will continue to update Committee on the status of these initiatives. Once the Business Cases are finalized staff will bring them forward to Committee for discussion and approval.



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