

Report to Committee

☒ For Committee Direction

☒ For Committee Information



TOPIC:	Policing Committee Update	July 8, 2025
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status of the Policing Committee and to provide an overview of the new police governance regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Committee accepts the Policing Committee Report as Information.

In Business Arising from Committee of the Whole:

That Council directs Administration to formally withdraw (opt out) of the Central Alberta District Regional Policing Committee and establish a municipal policing committee.

RATIONALE:

The recommendation is based on updated information received from the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services, in compliance with the 2022 *Police Amendment Act* and the Police Governance Regulations 156/2024 and 174/2024, which came into effect on March 1, 2025.

REPORT INFORMATION:

Over the past two years, Administration has collected information and provided reports to Council regarding the requirements for establishing a policing committee. The previous reports outlined police service delivery models, oversight responsibilities, and potential upcoming regulatory changes to the *Police Act*. Administration engaged with other municipalities in the region that operate policing committees to gain a clearer understanding of their structures, roles and functions.

Between October and December 2024, Administration participated in several virtual sessions hosted by the Province to further explore Morinville's available options. During these sessions, we continued to seek clarification on specific requirements and responsibilities. In December 2024, it was confirmed that a proposed Morinville Detachment regional committee was not permitted under current legislation and regulations.

As a result, three (3) policing committee options were available:

1. Opt out of the Central Alberta District Regional Policing Committee (CADRPC) and establish a municipal policing committee .
2. Join Morinville's prescribed regional policing committee, the Central Alberta District (no longer viable as of June 4, 2025).

3. Partner with another municipality (under a Municipal Policing Service Agreement and with a population over 5,000) to establish a joint municipal policing committee.

Initially, Morinville opted to join its prescribed Alberta regional policing committee. However, on April 17, 2025, Administration was informed that only two of the seven municipalities—Stettler and Morinville—remained in the Central Alberta Region, as all other member municipalities had formally opted out.

In May 2025, during the Alberta Association of Police Governance conference, Administration met with the Director of Contract Policing and Policing Oversight from the Law Enforcement and Oversight Branch. It was recommended that Morinville arrange a meeting with the Town of Stettler to discuss remaining options and evaluate whether continued participation in the Central Alberta District Regional Policing Committee would be beneficial for either municipality.

On June 4, 2025, Administration met with the Government of Alberta (GoA) and the Town of Stettler to review available options. During this meeting, both municipalities were informed that out of forty-eight (48) municipalities with Municipal Police Service Agreements in Alberta, forty-two (42) had chosen to opt out of the regional districts. Within our own Central Alberta Region, five (5) RCMP District partners—the Towns of Blackfalds, Devon, Ponoka, Rocky Mountain House, and Wetaskiwin—have all applied to establish their own Municipal Policing Committee, leaving Morinville and Stettler as the remaining municipalities.

Given the significant geographical distance from Stettler, the most feasible option now is to formally opt-out and establishing a local Municipal Policing Committee. The lack of physical proximity to our partner hinders our ability to effectively fulfill the committee's mandated responsibilities, such as developing an annual plan of priorities and strategies for regional policing and supporting integrated community safety planning. Notably, Stettler has also elected to withdraw from the Alberta Central Region committee, leaving no other viable options.

IMPACT:

A policing committee would be a new service level that could promote community education on policing governance, improve community safety and well-being, and support regional collaboration for policing.

Costs for the Committee are initially (but not definitively) pegged at \$10,000, and including things such as the following:

- Upfront and ongoing committee recruitment
- Administrative committee support
- Committee member honourariums and per diems
- Any legislatively required committee member training/certifications

As part of our annual committee recruitment cycle, which typically launches soon for Council-appointed committees, we intend to include the new policing committee in this year's recruitment campaign.

While the committee bylaw and detailed scope are yet to be developed, we believe there is sufficient clarity to begin seeking expressions of interest from residents. This will allow us to maintain our usual recruitment timeline and support a timelier launch of the committee once the structure is finalized.

This approach supports early awareness and engagement, while preserving flexibility to adapt to the finalized committee framework.

NEXT STEPS:

Upon approval of the recommendation, Administration will provide the opt-out notice and begin work on developing a committee bylaw and budget for Council consideration. Committee recruitment will proactively include the opportunity to sit on the committee, understanding that the exact scope and number of spots are to be determined.

PRESENTER:	B. Boddez, Fire Chief & Manager of Community Safety Services	ATTACHMENTS: N/A
PREPARED BY:	B. Boddez, Fire Chief & Manager of Community Safety Services	
CLEARANCES:	M. Hay, Chief Administrative Officer J. Potocnik, Interim General Manager, Infrastructure and Community Services	