

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE NEWS RELEASE

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Toronto Police Service Releases 2024 Operational Budget Proposal, Budget proposal stresses importance of response times because emergencies don't wait

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Today, the Toronto Police Service published its 2024 Budget proposal, which reflects the reality that time matters. The Service is proposing a modest, below the rate of inflation 1.7 per cent increase over its 2023 budget. While this proposal is reflective of the City of Toronto's immediate fiscal pressures, this carefully considered plan must focus on core service delivery, response times, strengthening community trust, and improving safety across the city.

"This budget reflects the reality that time matters," said Chief Myron Demkiw. "Working closely with the City staff, our budget continues a multi-year approach that began last year to address our top priority of response times. It also implements bridging strategies that delay but do not eliminate serious cost pressures within TPS," The Chief continued, "Due in part to hiring efforts undertaken in 2023, we expect to deploy approximately 300 new officers by the end of 2024 to serve Toronto's communities. As our city's population grows at record levels, spreading our officers' time any thinner by not hiring would lead to increased member burnout and less safe emergency response for Torontonians. We must be able to be there when the public calls."

TPS continues to manage a growing demand around emergency calls, which are up 18 per cent this year. This includes a 43 per cent increase in reported hate crimes (YTD) and a sharp rise in violent car jackings, among other pressures, that together are spreading our officers' time thinner and thinner. This budget includes critical resources to help with these core emergency service areas.

Chief Demkiw added, "This budget matters because it focuses on core emergency service delivery and also aims to help us to protect community policing duties. It enables us to attempt to continue our Neighbourhood Community Officer Program with officers building trust and doing proactive work in our communities and it will provide our officers with much needed, overdue new digital tools. And, this budget allows us to strengthen our collaboration with the Toronto Community Crisis Service (TCCS), so we can work to move more calls to non-emergency crisis services, something we recognize is important to our community."

This budget proposal pushes out but does not eliminate growing cost pressures within TPS, which will have to be addressed eventually. In line with the City's long-term planning, some Non-salary expenses have been deferred and will be spread over the next few fiscal years. This comes on top of requirements over the last decade to implement significant cost containment and hiring freezes that, when combined, find TPS now with 600 fewer officers than in 2010, against a population that has grown by at least 460,000 people over the same period.

This 2024 Budget proposal matters a lot to TPS's ability to attempt to serve this city adequately and effectively as required by legislation. Priority areas receiving investment with this budget include:

Response Times: When people have to call 9-1-1 they need help. This budget will mean approximately 170 officers can be deployed to support high priority calls to help cope with increased demands from a growing city and to stop the further degradation of response times.

Road Safety and Vision Zero: Construction and congestion related delays are increasing. Torontonians time matters and officers can help with traffic congestion when people are trying to get home to their families. This budget adds up to ten officers to help our efforts to keep traffic moving and to continue implementation of the city's promise of Vision Zero to reduce traffic-related fatalities and injuries on Toronto's streets.

Improved Investigative Capacity: With this budget, approximately 110 officers can be added to help with investigating the most serious of crimes on teams that have faced a high degree of vacancies in recent years, due in large part to re-deployment to meet other critical public safety needs in other areas of service. These officers will also help address increased needs in the areas of hate crimes, carjackings and fraud. Each of these areas is of growing concern to Torontonians. Ten officers will be assigned to ensure the Service meets its disclosure requirements to ensure cases are not lost because of delays.

Hiring and Supervision: The Service is managing challenging dynamics in its workforce. At any point, 25% of members are eligible to retire and this will grow significantly over the next five years. Moreover, 25% of the frontline officers, doing the most dangerous and unpredictable work, have less than five years of on the job experience. Building and maintaining an adequate hiring plan that supports supervision and oversight is critical.

The 2024 Budget Proposal

The Service's proposed net budget operating budget is \$1,186.5 Billion (B), a \$20.0 M or 1.7% increase (below the rate of inflation) over the 2023 approved budget. Collective bargaining increases are not included in this proposal as the existing collective agreements end on December 31, 2023 and negotiations for renewed agreements will take place between the Toronto Police Services Board, the Toronto Police Association (TPA), and the Toronto Police Senior Officers' Organization (SOO).

The Service will present the budget proposal to the Toronto Police Services Board on Tuesday, December 19 for a vote. If the proposal is approved, it would then proceed to the City's Budget Committee and to full City Council in the New Year.

"We look forward to engaging in a dialogue about our budget proposal with the Toronto Police Services Board, City of Toronto's Budget Committee, and Toronto City Council. We

are eager to present our budget, which recognizes the reality that time matters –as emergencies don't wait. Police must be there when the public needs us," said Chief Demkiw.

All TPS Budget 2024 information can be found on our TPS website at www.tps.ca/budget/2024-budget

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