



Special Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of March 3, 2026

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** February 19, 2026
From: Susanne Thompson, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer
Subject: 2026-2030 Draft Financial Plan – Impact of Province's Decision on Victoria Esquimalt Police Board Section 27 Appeal

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 27 of the *Police Act*, the Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board appealed Esquimalt Council’s decision to decline a portion of the 2025 police budget. A letter from the Province’s Director of Police Services dated January 9, 2026 (Appendix A) outlines their decision that some of the disputed amounts must be added to VicPD’s budget. One appealed item (one-time recruitment costs) remains pending, and the Director of Police Services has requested additional information from the Police Board before a determination can be made. The Police Board sent a letter dated January 21, 2026 (Appendix B) to Victoria Council indicating that the positions subject to the appeal had been prorated with a start date of May and the full amount will be included in their 2026 budget.

The impact of this decision to the City of Victoria is as follows:

Budget Item	Police Provisional Budget	Provincial Director of Police Services Decision	Victoria’s Share 86.33%
2 Constables – Strike Force	\$210,725	\$210,725	\$181,919
2 Constables – Community Resource Officer	\$210,725	\$210,725	\$181,919
Community Programs Manager	\$100,892	\$100,892	\$87,100
Cybersecurity Analyst	\$75,786	\$75,786	\$65,426
Logistics Coordinator	\$65,452	\$0	\$0
Associated One-Time Hiring Costs	\$261,845	To be determined	To be determined
Total	\$925,425	\$598,128	\$516,364

The 2026 property tax impact of adding \$516,364 is 0.26% resulting in a total property tax increase for police of 5.28%. Victoria's portion of the pending appeal for one-time hiring costs, if approved, would add a further 0.12%.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Thompson
Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

Attachments

Appendix A – January 9, 2026 Letter from Province's Director of Police Services regarding *Police Act* section 27 appeal

Appendix B – January 21, 2026 Letter from Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board regarding *Police Act* section 27 appeal decision