



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Will Pearce, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 7400-30

PC: Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands, **DATE:** September 29, 2022
Administration

FROM: Geoffrey Gaucher, General Manager, Municipal Support Services RCMP

SUBJECT: RCMP MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES - TEMPORARY EXHIBIT CUSTODIAN

In order to deal with an increased exhibit file backlog, evolving exhibit handling processes and new Federal Regulations for seized firearms being held by police, a one-year temporary Exhibit Custodian position is being requested for supporting the Vernon/North Okanagan RCMP Detachment.

The Exhibit Custodian is responsible for the safe keeping and storage of all seized property as well as to preserve continuity of evidence in order to support court prosecutions. The Exhibit Custodian controls the movement, storage, and disposition/destruction of all Detachment exhibits to protect the integrity of the exhibit system. This position controls and monitors all exhibit documentation for accuracy and adherence to criminal law and RCMP policies. The Exhibit Custodian responds to inquiries from the general public and returns seized property at the direction of the investigator.

This position is required to conduct ongoing quality assurance audits on files containing exhibits, as well as making recommendations for training and providing education to RCMP members. It is becoming more and more difficult to find the time to complete these reviews to improve best practices or to provide the training to police.

There has been changes to the processes for exhibits held for destruction, new registration databases for firearms seized by police and the requirement to carefully process high potency drugs like fentanyl for destruction. These increasing duties and responsibilities have led to quality assurance work being left undone as there simply isn't the capacity to complete all of the required tasks in the course of the day with only one person. This capacity deficit is contributing to a backlog of approximately 1,600 incomplete files with 800 of these requiring attention in the near future.

Further adding to the exhibit backlog is that the position is currently vacant as the incumbent has left for a position within the Operations Division.

Administration is recommending that Council support temporarily increasing service levels in 2023 at a fully loaded cost of \$85,000 for a 12 month temporary Exhibit Custodian. The position would assist in dealing within the backlog of quality assurance files in exhibits. The recommended source of funding for the position is the RCMP Contingency Reserve with a projected year end balance of \$2,071,293.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize \$85,000 to permit the hiring of a temporary Exhibit Custodian for RCMP Municipal Support Services for 12 months, with the source of funding being the RCMP Contingency Reserve as described in the memorandum titled "Municipal Support Services RCMP 2023 Budget Priorities" dated September 29, 2022, respectfully submitted by the General Manager, Municipal Support Services RCMP.

Respectfully submitted:



Geoffrey Gaucher

General Manager, Municipal Support Services RCMP

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