



Terms of Reference

Alberta Police Act Working Group

BACKGROUND:

Advocating for the implementation of a new, more equitable police funding model is a strategic priority for the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee in 2018.

Currently, policing costs are only paid by urban municipalities with a population greater than 5,000. In 2010, the previous provincial government committed to providing a new cost-sharing model for police funding. At this time, AUMA consulted with members on potential approaches and developed proposed principles for a new funding model, including the model's use of population and assessment base as a simulation of demand for services and ability to pay. This work was validated by members in 2013 at the Spring Mayors' Caucus.

In 2016, AUMA members passed a resolution asking AUMA to advocate for a new, more equitable police funding model. In response to this resolution, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General indicated that although Ministry staff have researched options for a new funding model, any consultations on police funding are not likely to take place until after the 2019 provincial election.

To further inform AUMA's advocacy on this issue, there is a need to undertake additional work to develop and test options for a new police funding model. Also, as establishing a new model will require opening the Alberta Police Act, AUMA would like to determine what other legislative amendments may be required to improve policing services. AUMA is therefore seeking to strike a working group to carry out this work.

MANDATE:

The working group will be tasked with:

- Gathering information on the current policing costs being paid by municipalities;
- Using the principles previously endorsed by members to develop options for a funding model;
- Providing estimates of the financial impacts to municipalities under each funding model option;
- Testing funding model options with AUMA membership;
- Recommending a new funding model to the AUMA Board; and
- Recommending other amendments to the Alberta Police Act as required to improve policing services and community safety.



TERM:

As a government review of the Alberta Police Act as not been scheduled, timelines for the working group are flexible. However, it would be strategically advantageous to have recommendations in place by winter 2018-19 to inform advocacy as political campaigning intensifies for the 2019 provincial election. Accordingly, the working group is expected to be appointed by mid-June 2018. An initial orientation will be held over the summer, and regular meetings will begin in fall 2018. The working group is expected to complete its work by February 2019.

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The working group will consist of CAOs or senior administrators with subject matter expertise, spanning a range of AUMA's regular members (i.e. cities, towns, villages and summer villages) and geographic regions. Subject expertise includes knowledge of police services, police governance, policing standards, the Alberta Police Act, Municipal Police Servicing Agreements, the Alberta Law Enforcement Review Board, police commissions and committees, and RCMP Community Advisory Committees. The use of alternates will be allowed, and if necessary, working group membership can be amended during the working group's term.

AUMA will also explore opportunities for the working group to partner with stakeholders such as the Alberta Association of Police Governance, the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police, and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General staff.

Working group members will be responsible for:

- Responding to requests for input in a timely manner;
- Preparing for and regularly attending meetings;
- Constructively participating in meetings; and
- Representing the interests and views of municipal administrations.

MEETINGS:

The working group will hold up to five face-to-face meetings at AUMA's office in Edmonton. Meeting agendas and support materials will be emailed to working group members at least five working days prior to a meeting. Discussions with working group members may also be done through email and/or telephone meetings.

AUMA shall reimburse working group members for their travel expenses according to AUMA Policy No. FM003. Members will not be paid for their time.