

Report to Council

Report Title:	South Bruce OPP Detachment Board 2026 Budget Contribution		
Prepared By:	Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer		
Department:	Finance		
Date:	March 10, 2026		
Report Number:	FIN2026-09	File Number:	C11FIN
Attachments:	South Bruce OPP Detachment Board Letter dated February 26, 2026 Approved 2026 South Bruce OPP Detachment Board Budget Staff report 2026 Draft South Bruce OPP Detachment Board Budget 2026 Draft Budget as presented September 2 2025		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report FIN2026-09 – South Bruce OPP Detachment Board 2026 Budget Contribution prepared by Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer, for information; and

That Council authorizes proceeding with the additional \$3,350 if required to be funded from the Police Reserve Fund, based on consensus of the member municipalities.

Report:

Background:

The South Bruce OPP Detachment Board (the “Board”) was established under the Community Safety and Policing Act, which came into effect April 1, 2024. The legislation requires the Board to prepare an annual budget estimate and allocate the costs of operations equally among participating municipalities. If the participating municipalities do not share equally, there must be unanimous agreement to allocate costs in another manner.

Prior to the budget being adopted by the municipalities, staff representatives supporting the Board prepared the draft budget applying accumulated surpluses to offset the municipal contribution for 2026. Based on this information, a draft budget was circulated reflecting a reduced municipal contribution of \$1,650 per municipality, with the remaining operational costs funded through accumulated surplus.

On September 2, 2025, the Board review and discussed the budget as presented and approved the 2026 operating budget which established a municipal contribution of \$5,000 per municipality.

Following the September 2, 2025 meeting a miscommunication occurred between the staff representatives regarding the version of the budget that had been formally approved by the Board. When communication was provided that the Board had passed the budget, it was not clear that the approved budget had been amended as presented and reflected a contribution of \$5,000 per municipality.

As the Municipality of Brockton provides financial administration support to the Board, staff proceeded with invoicing the participating municipalities for \$1,650, consistent with the draft budget that had been circulated and understood to be in effect.

Subsequently, three municipalities approved their 2026 budgets including the \$1,650 contribution and the invoices were issued accordingly.

After the municipal budgets were passed, the discrepancy between the approved Board budget and the amount circulated to municipalities was identified.

Following this discovery, staff attended the February 3, 2026 meeting and provided a verbal follow-up to the Board outlining the discrepancy and requested reconsideration of the Board's budget, recommending that the municipal contributions remain at \$1,650 per municipality and that the remaining funding required be supported through the Board's accumulated surplus, of approximately \$30,000 as of the end of 2025.

On February 26, 2026, the participating municipalities received a letter from the South Bruce OPP Detachment Board requesting confirmation that municipalities approve the Board's budget submission of \$5,000 per municipality or indicate that they reject the submission and seek arbitration.

Municipalities are requested to provide their decision to the Board by March 31, 2026

Analysis:

The South Bruce OPP Detachment Board's approved 2026 budget identifies municipal contributions totaling \$25,000, representing \$5,000 per participating municipality.

However, financial projections for the Board indicate that there is an accumulated surplus from prior years of approximately \$27,967 (approximately \$30,000) available to support operations.

The draft budget circulated to municipalities used this surplus to reduce the required municipal contribution to \$1,650 per municipality for 2026.

At the time the discrepancy was identified:

- Three municipalities had already approved their municipal budgets including the \$1,650 contribution
- Invoices had been issued for the \$1,650 amount
- The Board retains a surplus that could offset operating costs

Council is required to determine how it wishes to respond to the Board's request and there are two options for all the participating municipalities to consider.

Option 1 - Maintain Status Quo (\$1,650 Contribution)

Under this option, the participating municipalities would maintain the contribution already included within the approved municipal budget of \$1,650. The Board would be requested to fund the remaining operational requirements through its accumulated surplus.

Option 2 – Approve \$5,000 Contribution (Fund Difference from Police Reserve)

Under this option, the participating municipality’s would approve the Board’s requested contribution of \$5,000. As the municipal budget currently reflects a contribution of \$1,650, the additional \$3,350 could be funded from the Police Reserve Fund, upon Council approval.

While Option 1 would be the preferred option, staff have requested authorization for the additional funding if required to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The 2026 municipal budget includes a contribution of \$1,650 to the South Bruce OPP Detachment Board. Should Council approve the Board’s request for the full \$5,000 contribution, the additional \$3,350 would need to be funded from the Police Reserve Fund, as this amount was not included in the approved 2026 operating budget.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer