

COUNCIL INFORMATION ITEM

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2022

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PREPARED BY: C. Chisholm, Manager, Leduc Enforcement Services and RCMP Administration

REPORT TITLE: Leduc Enforcement Services Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Council on the Enforcement Services program.

BACKGROUND

The City of Leduc Enforcement Services is a team of Community Peace Officers (CPO) appointed by the Alberta Solicitor General and Justice Department. Working closely with the Leduc RCMP Detachment, Enforcement Services work to raise awareness and ensure compliance with city bylaws and select provincial statutes.

CPOs have provincial authority under the Traffic Safety Act, Weed Control Act, Trespass Act, Animal Protection Act, Dangerous Dog Act, Environmental Protection Act and the Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Act.

Commonly investigated complaints or self generated activities by the CPOs include:

- Traffic Safety Act enforcement including Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) violations.
- Traffic Bylaw - Parking
- Community Standards Bylaw - Unsightly Premise, Snow on Sidewalks, Noise issues
- Animal Control Bylaw - Animals at large, Pet licencing, Animal attacks and Excessive barking

In addition to enforcement, CPOs are involved in the community in such things as assisting with community events, collaborating with other agencies and engaging with community organizations. Enforcement Services has organized bike safety rodeos, participated in Candy Cane Check Stops and food drives to support the Leduc Food Bank. CPO involvement in the school has occurred with presentations on traffic safety, railway safety (Operation Lifesaver), bicycle safety, positive ticketing program and Halloween safety.

Enforcement Services is integrated with the RCMP and conducts joint activities relating to community safety. Community Peace Officers are scheduled for various shifts through the week as well as weekends. Coverage begins at 7:30 am and ends at 10:30 pm (2:30 am in the summer) depending on staffing levels.

Municipal Enforcement Staffing

As of the end of July 2022, Enforcement Services had eight full time positions consisting of one Sergeant CPO Supervisor and seven CPOs Level 1. Currently there is one vacancy within Enforcement Services.

Over the last year, Enforcement Services has been challenged with maintaining staffing levels. A unique aspect regarding Enforcement Services is that when a new CPO is hired, typically there is a three-month delay in the

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new employee becoming fully appointed (even if they are an experienced CPO). If the new employee requires CPO training from the Solicitor General College, the delay can even be greater (up to six or more months).

Two positions within Enforcement Services are dedicated to traffic enforcement. Prior to 2020, there was a dedicated RCMP-LES three-person traffic unit (2 RCMP, 1 CPO). That function was converted to two dedicated CPOs as a more cost-effective way of providing the service. The unit focuses on traffic enforcement and educational activities. In addition, the unit conducts Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspections of commercial vehicles.

Statistics

In 2021, there were 2,060 calls for service from the public along with 494 files that were initiated by Leduc CPOs. This represents a 7% increase over 2020 calls for service. Of the occurrences in 2021, 446 were property related files (snow on sidewalk, unsightly and weeds) and 666 animal related files. There were 934 files that were related to vehicle offences.

Currently Enforcement Services is on pace to a record setting projected 2624 calls for service at the end of 2022. This represents a 40% increase in calls for service over 2018 levels. Capacity challenges and calls for service levels have impacted the ability of Enforcement Services to perform activities outside of responding to calls for service.

NEXT STEPS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

None