



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Board Approves 2024 Police Service Budget

**Fiscally responsible increases to improve public safety in Thunder Bay.**

**THUNDER BAY, ON (November 21, 2023)** — Today, the Thunder Bay Police Services Board has approved the 2024 operating and capital budgets for the Thunder Bay Police Service.

“At a time when policing costs are rising across Ontario, the 2024 budget represents an appropriate balance in addressing key recommendations from past reports, supporting the needs of the Thunder Bay Police Service, and improving public safety, while respecting the fiscal challenges facing the municipality,” **said Board Vice-Chair Denise Baxter**. “We as a Board, have an obligation to ensure that the budgets we put forward to Council allows the Service to be able to adequately respond to the needs of the community.”

The TBPS net operating budget approved for 2024 is \$54,573.6 Million, which represents a \$2,363.4 Million (4.5%) increase over the 2023 budget, attributable to:

- Continued recruitment of more frontline officers that began in budget 2023, and a planned reorganization of the service to better meet the needs of the community into the future
- Increased WSIB costs as a result of members on leave
- Increase in cost of contracted out criminal record check services

The net capital budget of \$2,825.2 Million, is an increase of \$636.5 thousand (29.1%) due to:

- Cycle Fleet Replacement
- Emergency Task Unit weaponry, tools, and PPE
- Replacement of end-of-life camera systems, transcription software, and new software to digitize officer notebook
- Training equipment and ammunition
- Continued rollout of in car and body-worn cameras
- Funding to address current facility space needs

The Ontario *Police Services Act* requires the police services board and the police service to provide “adequate and effective police services.” The *Act* requires the municipality to provide the financial, material, and infrastructural resources necessary to deliver these services consistent with the needs and priorities of the community.

“These fiscally responsible investments in public safety and wellbeing will build upon our efforts to improve community confidence and trust in our policing through implementing the critical changes and improvements that are long overdue,” added Baxter.

The Police Budget will be voted on by Thunder Bay City Council in early 2024.

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