

Date: February 2, 2026

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Subject: RCMP Auxiliary Program

Attachment(s): Tiered Auxiliary Program Flyer

Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report titled, "RCMP Auxiliary Program" from the Director, Administrative Services, dated February 2nd, 2026.

Purpose:
For Council information.

Discussion:

At the December 15th, 2025, regular meeting of Council it was resolved:

That Council DIRECTS Administration to return a report on the Auxiliary RCMP program that provides information and considers submission of a formal request to join the Auxiliary RCMP Program through the local Prince George RCMP detachment.

As a request to join the program is made by the Officer in Command (OIC) of a detachment, following this motion, staff have spent time with the Prince George RCMP detachment leadership to understand their view on submitting a request to join the Auxiliary RCMP Program.

Staff are advised that E Division Community Policing Services are currently working with the Provincial Recruit Training Center Research, Development and Learning unit to revise/align Auxiliary training material for Tier 1 Auxiliaries in British Columbia. Tier 2 and 3 programs remain under development. Once necessary approvals are in place, it is anticipated that Tier 1 training for Auxiliaries will be able to commence in British Columbia quickly.

Tier 1 auxiliaries perform functions such as watch programs, public education initiatives, non-enforcement support to operations, community fundraising events and participation in parades and public ceremonies. Tier 1 Auxiliaries will perform these activities under the general supervision of the RCMP employees and will not be given peace officer status.

In the Prince George context, Tier 1 is the type of activities that the current Citizens on Patrol (COP) program complete. The local detachment feels, given the success of COP, and that the COP program is assessed as being less administratively and operationally burdensome than the Auxiliary program (training, costs, liability and mandatory oversight), it is the program of choice between joining the Auxiliary program and retaining the current model.

About COP:

Regarding COP's impact, a healthy number of volunteers and strong monthly engagement has been noted in the program with good growth from 2024 to 2025.

RCMP Patrol Volunteers (COP) Hours:														
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total Hours	
2025	118	132	215	100	158	112	233	120	305	125	114	25	1757	Average number of Volunteers is 20
2024	37	110	106	52	102	90	107	35	335	130	64	28	1196	Average number of Volunteers is 15
													2953	

The Prince George RCMP Citizens on Patrol program was implemented to enable concerned and dedicated volunteers to be of assistance to the Prince George RCMP Detachment. The objective is to promote patrolling with trained volunteers. The volunteers, under the guidance of Community Policing leadership, patrol and observe and report any suspected criminal activity. This is accomplished by the patrol acting as an observational support team for the RCMP.

Note, the Prince George RCMP Citizens on Patrol Program is not intended to replace regular Police or private licensed security patrol services but allow the RCMP to direct their focus into additional areas of concern in order to reduce criminal activity.

The COP program has helped with patrolling Downtown Business Association events over the last nine years (e.g. Summer, Fall and Winter Fest and Plaid Friday). COP volunteers have also patrolled parking lots and street parking and left notices indicating what items were in clear view that may attract theft. The COP volunteers also provide Speed Watch, an ICBC sponsored educational program aimed at reducing incidents of speeding. Further, COP volunteers have been deployed in the downtown area to patrol and deter criminality. They have also successfully dissuaded individuals from starting fires and encouraged individuals to extinguish active fires during this downtown engagement.

The data above shows hours that vary based on a month's priority tasks and volunteers' availability. For example, in March, volunteers support the RCMP Youth Academy and in September it is back-to-school season and volunteers are assigned to speed watch in school zones.

Possible actions:

As the Prince George RCMP Detachment is not currently considering joining the auxiliary program Council may consider:

- 1) Receiving this report for information. If Council is satisfied that the COP program is meeting the objectives that joining the RCMP Auxiliary program would seek to support, then no further action is required.
- 2) Formally request through typical contract management channels that the local detachment join the auxiliary program. If Council is not satisfied with the existing programming and believes that the auxiliary program has merit in addition to existing community policing initiatives, a formal request could be made. Council or staff could communicate this in writing via routine meetings between the OIC and the Mayor or the City Manager and ask for their response.
- 3) If Council is interested in exploring this topic further before taking other actions, direct liaison with decision makers in the RCMP may be appropriate. Staff can work to arrange an appropriate gathering to ascertain further information.

Strategic Priorities:

Exploring options to strengthen tiered policing may be viewed in relation to the pillar of social health and wellbeing priorities, specifically ensuring safety and the perception of safety in the community. This item in the strategic plan explicitly includes reference to exploring the RCMP Auxiliary program among other actions.

Summary and conclusion:

This report communicates the Prince George RCMP detachment's intent to not join the Auxiliary RCMP program currently and seeks Council direction on what, if any, further action Council would like to take in relation to establishing an Auxiliary RCMP program in Prince George.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2026/02/23