



PUBLIC

To: South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Board
(Police Board)

From: Chief Officer Dave Jones
South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service
(Transit Police)

Date: January 27, 2022

Subject: 2021 Transit Police 2021 Year-End Financial Result [Board Report No. 2022-01]

INFORMATION REPORT

PURPOSE

The Police Board is responsible for the governance of the Transit Police. Regular reporting to the Police Board and their review of financial operations is a key element in the exercise of this responsibility and for public accountability.

The purpose of this report is to present the Transit Police year-end financial results (ending December 31, 2021) for the Police Board’s review and consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Transit Police launched its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, which covers a period that has seen considerable changes to the regional transit system and levels of ridership. Between 2016 and 2019, transit system expansion brought significantly increased ridership that exceeded predictions and placed increasing demands on Transit Police resources. Policing services were enhanced with increases to the Transit Police authorized strength in 2017 and 2018. The COVID-19 pandemic made a significant negative impact on transit ridership, with passenger levels first falling over 80% in March 2020, before rising back to between 40%-45% of pre-COVID-19 levels by year-end 2020. Notwithstanding the decrease in passengers in 2020 and 2021 (from 2019 level), a high volume of crimes continued to occur on and around the transit system. There was a significant increase in the rate of reported crimes against persons and property per 100,000 boarded passengers, which continued from 2020 into 2021.



As a result of the pandemic, the development of a new Transit Police Strategic Plan was delayed and the existing plan was extended until December 31, 2021.

In 2021, the Transit Police continued its work to develop a new strategic plan for 2022-2026 (finalized in December 2021), while also focusing on its existing Strategic Plan and three Strategic Goals:

- A safe and secure transit system;
- Confidence in the use of public transit;
- Regional services that enhance local policing and community safety.

Organizationally, this included advancing of strategic actions related to:

- Maintaining operational deployment levels and responding to emerging issues such as mask compliance concerns from passengers;
- Exploring opportunities for tiered policing with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General / Policing and Security Branch;
- Increasing collaboration and training with jurisdictional police agencies to achieve safety/security across the region (e.g., Targeted Mobile Enforcement Team and Crime Suppression Team);
- Reaching out to vulnerable persons on transit and providing specialized response (e.g., support to Indigenous Peoples, those with cognitive issues and homeless persons);
- Increasing diversity in hiring;
- Planning for appropriately staffed Transit Police service delivery to address future transit system expansion;
- Enhancing Transit Police officer skills and knowledge through training;
- Achieving efficiencies through increased use of technology through the Data Evidence Management Systems project;
- Enhancing performance analytics and crime analysis;
- Promoting anti-terrorism deterrence, detection and response capacities (expansion of the Explosive Detection Dog Program); and
- Demonstrating investigative excellence.

For 2021, with the concurrence of the Police Board, TransLink Security Management Limited and TransLink, there was no increase to the authorized strength in the budget. The Transit Police's budget for 2021 was \$37,892,437 That budget does not include TransLink "allocated costs" for centralized services, such as the Sapperton premises rent and Information Technology services.



DISCUSSION

Results for 2021 (Appendix "A")

Total expenditures in the year were \$38,545,046, resulting in a negative variance of \$652,609 for the year. Details are provided in Appendix "A".

A summary of cost savings and over expenditures follows:

Reconciliation of Expenditures:

<u>Savings:</u>	<u>(\$000)</u>
Radio Communications	126
Recoveries	169
Training costs	139
Professional Fees	113
Marketing	35
	<u>\$582</u>
<u>Over Expenditures:</u>	
Salary and Benefits	928
Vehicles	105
Outside Services	75
Materials	73
Rentals	22
Administration	32
	<u>\$1,235</u>
Net Over Expenditure	<u><u>\$653</u></u>

Key savings are outlined below:

- "Radio Communication" costs were \$126 Thousand less than budgeted due to the E-Comm levy being lower than planned and a large credit being received related to the 2020 levy (the 2020 actual levy was less than estimated).
- "Recoveries" were \$169 Thousand better than budgeted because of the recovery of retroactive pay and additional recoveries of overtime costs for Members on secondment.



- “Training” costs were \$139 Thousand less than budgeted due to reduced conference and training costs due to the ongoing pandemic.
- “Professional Fees” were \$113 Thousand favourable to the budget as lower legal costs were incurred for the indemnification of police officers in the year.
- “Marketing” costs were \$35 Thousand under budget as less marketing campaigns were carried out in the year due to the pandemic.

Offsetting the above savings is an unfavourable variance in the following areas:

- “Salary and Benefits” were \$928 Thousand higher than budgeted as ‘contractual’ wage increases for sworn Members were 1% higher than planned (actual wage settlement combined for 2020 and 2021 was 5.5% compared to a budgeted 4.5% wage increase). Adding to the unfavourable variance was a larger accrual for year-end leave balances and significantly higher benefit costs (i.e., dental/extended health and WorkSafeBC) in the year. Partially offsetting the increased salary costs were overtime savings of \$314 Thousand.
- “Vehicle” costs were \$105 Thousand higher than budgeted because of considerably higher fuel prices and higher repair and maintenance costs. Offsetting some of these higher costs, were savings on vehicle insurance, as ICBC premiums decreased during the year.
- “Outside Services” (contracted services such as transcription, kennel costs, translation forensic services etc.) were over budget by \$75 Thousand due to costs associated with hosting a backup server as part of the IT disaster recovery plan and added costs for translations and DNA testing for investigations.
- “Materials” were \$73 Thousand over budget due to additional pandemic related purchases, purchase of extra Nalaxone kits and the purchase of mesh ventilation vests for police officers.
- “Rentals” were \$22 Thousand over budget because of extra range rental times due to COVID-19 protocols at the range (requiring reduced capacity) and the rental of an additional parking stalls at the Surrey Hub office.
- “Administrative” costs were \$32 Thousand over budget due to purchase of additional office equipment and COVID-19 protective barriers.



TransLink Allocated Costs

Allocated costs from TransLink are not included in the Transit Police budget, which is consistent with the other TransLink subsidiaries. TransLink allocates centralized costs to the business units that directly benefit from/consume the service or cost. The cost allocated to the Transit Police covers Information Technology, Premises Rental, Payroll and some Human Resources services. Total allocated costs budgeted for 2021 were \$5,154,911.

Total TransLink allocated cost expenditures were \$4,845,616 for the year, resulting in a positive variance of \$309,291 (see Appendix "B"). The positive variance was largely due to lower premise costs (delay in moving into additional third floor space at Sapperton) and lower computer and systems costs.

CONCLUSION

Total expenditures in 2021 were \$38,545,046, resulting in a negative variance of \$652,609 for the year. The negative variance was largely due to sworn wage increases and benefit costs (WorkSafeBC and dental/extended health) being higher than budgeted. The 2021 year end results includes an accrual for estimated retroactive pay for Transit Police Officers, based on the recent wage settlement in the Vancouver Police Collective Agreement.

Chief Officer Dave Jones

Author: Tom Smolic, Transit Police Senior Finance Manager

Submitting Senior Executive Member: Barry Kross, Deputy Chief Officer – Administrative Services Division

Transit Police 2021 Actual

Board Report No. 2022-01/Appendix "A"

Period ending	December 31, 2021				
	Actual	Budget	Variance	%	
Labour					
Salaries	29,184,913	28,187,837	(997,076)	-4%	Higher accrual for expected wage increases for police officers
Overtime	460,575	774,775	314,200	41%	OT costs lower as less call outs needed
Benefits	7,259,521	7,014,438	(245,083)	-3%	Higher dental/extended health costs and WorkSafeBC premiums
	<u>36,905,010</u>	<u>35,977,050</u>	<u>(927,960)</u>	<u>-3%</u>	
Recoveries - Secondments	(1,418,480)	(1,248,684)	169,796		Recovery of retro pay and OT on seconded members
Labour net of Recoveries	<u>35,486,529</u>	<u>34,728,366</u>	<u>(758,163)</u>		
Vehicles					
Fuel	289,506	229,996	(59,510)	-26%	Increase in fuel prices
Vehicle Maintenance	181,851	116,500	(65,351)	-56%	Increase in number of repairs
Vehicle Outfitting	65,447	40,002	(25,445)	-64%	Extra costs for replacement of gun racks and laptop mounts
Vehicle Leases	42,449	42,504	55	0%	
Insurance	82,608	127,503	44,895	35%	Decrease in ICBC insurance premiums
	<u>661,861</u>	<u>556,505</u>	<u>(105,356)</u>	<u>-19%</u>	
Materials					
Materials - Uniforms	95,209	112,400	17,191	15%	Less replacement of uniforms needed
Materials - Other	196,826	116,192	(80,634)	-69%	Additional purchase of Nalaxone kits and COV D PPE supplies
Materials - Firearms/Ammunition	80,166	86,998	6,833	8%	
Materials - Outerwear	216,183	199,700	(16,483)	-8%	Additional jackets and body armour
	<u>588,383</u>	<u>515,290</u>	<u>(73,093)</u>	<u>-14%</u>	
Outside Services					
Maintenance and Repairs	47,569	43,005	(4,564)	-11%	
Uniform Cleaning	115,662	101,803	(13,859)	-14%	Additional cleaning allowance for CST and more cleaning/repairs
Other Services	174,995	118,493	(56,502)	-48%	Costs for backup server hosting, translations and DNA testing
Minor Renovations	19,577	20,000	423	2%	
	<u>357,804</u>	<u>283,301</u>	<u>(74,503)</u>	<u>-26%</u>	
Administration					
Office Equipment	50,740	16,501	(34,239)	-207%	Additional costs for computers/monitors for sub offices/TMET and red boxes
Stationery and Supplies	44,958	62,749	17,791	28%	Fewer supplies needed as less staff in office
Memberships/Subscriptions	75,949	67,752	(8,197)	-12%	Higher cost for subscriptions
Board Remuneration	48,404	47,702	(702)	-1%	
Other Administration	29,558	22,751	(6,807)	-30%	Higher costs for recruitment
	<u>249,609</u>	<u>217,455</u>	<u>(32,154)</u>	<u>-15%</u>	
Telecommunications					
Telecommunications	-	-	-		
Radio Communication Equipment	525,149	651,253	126,104	19%	E-Comm levy lower than planned and credit received for 2020 levy
	<u>525,149</u>	<u>651,253</u>	<u>126,104</u>	<u>19%</u>	
Professional and Legal					
Professional fees	99,259	114,005	14,747		Lower costs for medical/ psychological testing
Legal Fees	87,150	185,001	97,851	53%	Lower cost for indemnification of police officers
	<u>186,408</u>	<u>299,006</u>	<u>112,598</u>	<u>38%</u>	
Training					
Recruit Training	195,688	215,000	19,312	9%	
Training - Mandatory	189,553	309,756	120,203	39%	Lower costs due to less training and conferences due to COVID-19
	<u>385,241</u>	<u>524,756</u>	<u>139,515</u>	<u>27%</u>	
Rentals					
Rentals/Leases - Parking	15,542	9,004	(6,538)		Additional parking stalls required at Waterfront suboffice
Rentals/Leases - Range	50,700	35,000	(15,700)	-45%	Extra range time needed to train police officers on new pistols/carbines
Rentals/Leases - Office Equipment	-	-	-		
	<u>66,242</u>	<u>44,004</u>	<u>(22,238)</u>	<u>-51%</u>	
Marketing & Promotions	37,820	72,501	34,681	48%	Fewer marketing campaigns during the year due to the pandemic
Total Before Allocated Costs	<u>38,545,046</u>	<u>37,892,437</u>	<u>(652,609)</u>	<u>-2%</u>	

TransLink Allocated Costs - 2021 Actual

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Period ending	December 31, 2021			
	Actual	2021 Budget	Variance	%
Salaries	919,679	834,230	(85,449)	-10%
Administration	462,403	549,571	87,168	16%
Computers & Systems	1,273,994	1,449,184	175,190	12%
Rentals	2,189,540	2,321,922	132,382	6%
	<u>4,845,616</u>	<u>5,154,907</u>	<u>309,291</u>	6%