



Grande Prairie Police Commission – GPPS FAQ Sheet

Will officers be trained to the same standard as the RCMP?

GPPS training will meet or exceed policing standards established by the Government of Alberta – Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services. The Alberta Police Recruit Guidelines are required to be followed by the municipal police and are similar to, if not more stringent than, the current RCMP standards.

What will recruit training look like?

Our recruit training program is approximately six months in duration. We have partnered with Lethbridge College to provide the foundational training, which will be accredited instruction. We will further utilize experienced officers who have been trained as instructors in multiple disciplines. Recruits will be trained out of local facilities and will be paid a full salary and given benefits from their first day of hire. Recruits will receive training in Criminal Law, Alberta Provincial Laws, Grande Prairie bylaws, and local equity, diversity, and inclusion. They will be provided further training specific to control tactics, arrests and control, firearms, emergency driver training, and de-escalation tactics.

What specialty teams will there be?

Currently, Chief Dwayne Lakusta is planning for specialty teams like Police Dog Services, Training, Major Crimes, Forensics, Traffic, Tactical, Drug, Police and Crisis Teams (PACT), Community Engagement, Patrol, Beats, Drone operators, and more as the service is built.

Where will officers be recruited from?

Recruiting efforts are being made locally, and a great percentage of applicants for our initial classes are from the Peace Country. We are also recruiting from markets across the country, including the Maritime provinces, Ontario, and British Columbia, with an emphasis on the “Grande Prairie advantage”, including housing affordability and lifestyle.





Will all the current municipal peace officers become municipal police officers?

No. While Enforcement Services now falls under the Grande Prairie Police Service, peace officers remain peace officers. All peace officers are welcome to go through the application process to become a municipal police officer like anyone else.

What will be some of the noticeable differences for the public?

Initially, the public will notice that some officers in the city are wearing black uniforms with red stripes, instead of the RCMP's grey and blue uniforms with yellow stripes. They may also see the new GPPS black colored vehicles driving around town. Eventually, the public will see more of a GPPS presence in the community, including in the downtown core. Once established, the public should also notice the use of a local Integrated Dispatch to better dispatch resources to each call.

The deployment model for the GPPS includes our Peace Officers and Mobile Outreach team, which creates a tiered policing model. This will allow the GPPS to send the right resources to the right call at the right time. This will allow our sworn police officers to be more available to serious crimes impacting the city.

Having local oversight of the police service will allow the service to be nimbler and more responsive as opposed to the current model where decisions are often made outside of the city. GPPS will be able to respond quickly to emerging trends and adjust accordingly as the decisions will be made locally.

What are the costs of a municipal police service and the transition?

The funding requirements associated with the 5-year start-up/transition to a municipal police service are projected to be approximately \$16,340,387 plus a suggested contingency of up to \$2,646,637. These costs include transitional staffing, policing equipment, fleet assets, technology, infrastructure, recruitment, training, and professional services. The Government of Alberta has so far committed \$9.7 million towards years one to three of the transition, along with support for future requests. Following the transition, the annual operating budget of the municipal police service is projected by a third-party consultant to be less than that of the projected current state RCMP contract budget (equally adjusted for inflation).





Will my taxes go up once the new service takes over from the RCMP?

The cost of the transition is being covered through a grant provided by the Government of Alberta. The grant will cover all expenses related to the transition, which include recruitment and training of new officers, as well as equipment such as uniforms, weapons, intervention tools, fleet, and an independent IT system with a records management system.

The cost to run the new police service will not be more than the RCMP contract would have been had the city stayed with it as the contract provider for policing.

When is the transition anticipated to be completed by?

GPPS was established in 2023 and it is anticipated the full transition will take five years. It's expected that GPPS will become the police of primary jurisdiction in 2026 and that it will reach full capacity by 2027.

How many police officers will be employed by GPPS once fully transitioned?

It is expected that GPPS will employ up to 110 police officers.

Will GPPS members be serving outside city limits?

The Grande Prairie Police Service's jurisdiction will be the municipal boundaries for the City of Grande Prairie. However, when the need arises, GPPS will work with the RCMP outside of city limits when necessary.

What happens if GPPS members are responding to a situation that moves outside of city limits?

Although the primary jurisdiction for GPPS is the municipal boundaries of the City of Grande Prairie, members have full policing authorities for the entire province of Alberta. This allows GPPS members to enforce the law outside of the city. They could do so independent of the RCMP or in partnership with the RCMP to address the matter.





How do we know the new service won't become a buddy force where the local people just let off all their buddies?

The actions of our police members are highly supervised and monitored on a continual basis. If members of the public become concerned with the actions of a police officer, they are encouraged to submit a letter of complaint to the GPPS Chief of Police. All complaints are monitored by the Grande Prairie Police Commission, which provide oversight of the police service.

How will the service handle serious investigations that require resources we currently receive from the RCMP?

The Grande Prairie Police Service will have its own specialized resources which are currently provided by provincial RCMP resources. This will include serious investigation teams, a tactical team, a canine unit, and forensic identification services. Having these resources within the deployment model will provide a more efficient and timely level of service as they will exist right in the city. A number of these resources are currently deployed from Edmonton when required by the local RCMP. GPPS will also solicit assistance through partnerships with the RCMP as required.

