

## **Policing Model Comparisons**

### **August 13, 2024**

#### RCMP Contract Policing Cost Per Officer

Contract policing from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), is procured by using either a Municipal Policing Service Agreement (MPSA) or subscribing to the Provincial Policing Service Agreement (PPSA).

**The 2024/25 MPSA per officer cost** for municipalities with a population lower than 15,000 was \$186,567 per officer as part of their 70/30 cost share ( $\$266,524 \times .70$ ). This per capita cost is added to by other detachment specific costs (i.e.: accommodations, prison guards, and overtime estimates) that vary by particular MPSA and bring this per officer cost up to \$200,000-\$225,000.

MPSA contract holders includes Town of Yarmouth, Town of Pictou, Town of Antigonish, and West Hants Regional Municipality. Because West Hants Regional Municipality has an MPSA and a population beyond 15,000, it is the only RCMP service recipient in Nova Scotia paying a 90/10 cost share and paid \$256,854 per officer ( $\$282,636 \times .90$ ), and this is set to rise to \$279,734 in 2025/26.

The MPSA per officer cost is further added to by the cost of “shared services” for the Operational Communication Centre (OCC) and the District Advisory Non-Commissioned Officers (DANCO), which will be \$11,240 per officer in 2024 and is billed separately by the Province.

The benefit of an MPSA is that municipalities receive multi-year financial forecast, and may receive credits for future-year costs when annual costs end up being lower than expected (i.e.: lower accommodation or overtime costs, or vacant positions).

**The 2024/25 PPSA per officer cost** for municipalities was \$202,671, which includes accommodation costs and overtime estimates. There are 35 municipalities that procure policing services as a party to the PPSA. Just like the MPSA per officer cost, this per officer cost is added to by the cost of the “shared services” (OCC and DANCO), which brings this per officer cost up to \$212,700.

All MPSA and PPSA municipalities (with the exception of HRM) are billed for these shared services in addition to their respective contract cost. HRM does not pay this cost because it does not utilize OCC and DANCO.

#### Municipal Police Agency Cost Per Officer

Using 2024/25 capital and operational budget information and most recently available officer counts, municipal policing agency per officer costs are shown in the table below. It must be noted that these costs account for some but not all centralized/specialized service needs, and largely depend on the provincial government continuing to finance access to these services.

If revenue is taken into account, these per officer costs for municipal police agencies are notably reduced. Some RCMP service recipients (e.g.: East Hants) make a small amount of revenue from tenant rentals.

Municipal Police Agencies have officers on shift 24 hours a day, while only some RCMP service recipients (e.g.: East Hants) have officers on shift 24 hours a day. Therefore, RCMP per officer costs do not receive the responsiveness and overall value of municipal policing agency costs in return for their investment.

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**Table 1: Municipal Police Agency**

| 2024/2025       | Police Operating Budget | # of Officers | Cost Per Officer | Police Revenue (incl. AOP) | Net Cost Per Officer | Net Cost Including Capital |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Amherst         | \$5,218,991             | 25            | \$208,760        | \$438,600                  | \$191,215            | \$216,475                  |
| Annapolis Royal | \$483,509               | 4             | \$128,838        | \$170,961                  | \$120,877            | \$120,877                  |
| Bridgewater     | \$5,673,118             | 26            | \$218,196        | \$1,344,378                | \$166,490            | \$173,990                  |
| CBRM            | \$32,260,249            | 197           | \$197,600        | \$4,955,422                | \$172,446            | \$174,222                  |
| HRM             | \$110,375,000           | 564           | \$195,700        | \$13,631,600               | \$171,502            | \$172,417                  |
| Kentville       | \$3,510,934             | 18            | \$195,052        | \$475,000                  | \$168,663            | \$178,636                  |
| New Glasgow     | \$5,519,482             | 32            | \$172,484        | \$1,053,000                | \$139,578            | \$149,961                  |
| Stellarton      | \$2,323,472             | 14            | \$178,729        | \$92,000                   | \$171,651            | \$171,651                  |
| Truro           | \$6,882,521             | 36            | \$191,181        | \$1,158,599                | \$158,998            | \$173,204                  |
| Westville       | \$1,500,000             | 9             | \$142,082        | \$100,000                  | \$166,667            | \$155,555                  |

Using the information in this table, the following average and median costs for 2024/25 can be determined.

Average Police Budget (Column 2): \$17,224,728  
Median Police Budget (Column 2): \$5,369,236.50

Average Per Officer Cost (Column 4): \$182,862  
Median Per Officer Cost (Column 4): \$193,116.50

Average Per Officer Net Cost (Column 6): \$162,809  
Median Per Officer Net Cost (Column 6): \$167,665

Note on costs for all municipalities

All municipalities, including those with a municipal police agency, pay for Biological Casework Analysis conducted by the RCMP National Forensic Lab in addition to the per officer costs above. The total cost of this cost is divided on the basis of a municipality's uniform assessment as indicated in the annual 12-month notice letter. In 2022/2023, the total cost was \$845,000.

It must be noted that these per officer costs account for some but not all centralized/specialized service needs, and largely depend on the provincial government continuing to finance access to these services. In some cases, capacity for specialized services is held by municipal police agencies and is shared with other agencies as set out in a Memorandum of Understanding.

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Portion of Provincial Population

It is helpful to clarify the amount of the provincial population covered by different policing models. RCMP provide contract policing services in “rural areas”, suburban parts of Halifax Regional Municipality, and some of the smaller towns. Municipal police agencies typically provide policing services to highly-urbanized areas and occasionally broader regional areas. It is important to account for the fact that police agencies working in urban centres provide policing to a large portion of the provincial population at night, and an even larger portion of this population (and tourists), during the day. The tables below indicate the 2021 census data, based on place of residence.

**Table 2: Residential (Nighttime) Population Breakdown by Policing Model**

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <u>Provincial Population (2021)</u>  | 969,383 |
| % served by Municipal Police Agency* | 42%     |
| % served by RCMP contract policing*  | 57%     |

The population breakdown provided in these tables provides a snapshot of a fluid situation. Nova Scotia’s population continues to grow sharply in both urban and rural areas. There is indication that the distribution of population growth is increasing the share of the provincial population that receives policing services from a municipal police agency (i.e.: approaching 50% of the nighttime population), which will be confirmed in the 2026 population census data.\*\*

**Table 3: Residential (Nighttime) Population Breakdown by Municipality**

| Policing Model                | Municipality   | Population (2021) | Total Population by Police Model |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Municipal Police Agency (10)  | CBRM   | 93,694            | 402,382                          |
|                               | Amherst  | 9,404             |                                  |
|                               | Kentville  | 6,630             |                                  |
|                               | Annapolis Royal  | 530               |                                  |
|                               | New Glasgow  | 9,471             |                                  |
|                               | Bridgewater  | 8,790             |                                  |
|                               | Stellarton   | 4,007             |                                  |
|                               | Truro  | 12,954            |                                  |
|                               | Westville  | 3,540             |                                  |
|                               | HRM (Halifax, Bedford, Dartmouth = 57% of 2021 municipal population) | 250,955           |                                  |
| Sale of Service Agreement (1) | Trenton  | 2,407             |                                  |

\*Percentages do not equal 100% because there is a group referred to as “Provincial Population” in the census data that amounts to approximately 12,600 more than that attribute to municipalities, which could be the Indigenous population living on reserves.

\*\*The [provincial population grew to 1,058,694 in 2023. A 2023 estimate report tracks this growth by county](#) and a [2024 estimate report tracks this growth census divisions](#).

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| <b>Policing Model</b>      | <b>Municipality</b>                                 | <b>Population (2021)</b> | <b>Total Population by Police Model</b> |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| PSA Contract Policing (34) | HRM RCMP (PPSA) (=43% of 2021 municipal population) | 188,864                  | 554,359                                 |
|                            | Region of Queens                                    | 10,422                   |   |
|                            | Berwick   | 2,455                    |   |
|                            | Clark's Harbour                                     | 725                      |   |
|                            | Digby   | 2,001                    |   |
|                            | Lockeport   | 476                      |   |
|                            | Lunenburg   | 2,396                    |   |
|                            | Mahone Bay  | 1,064                    |   |
|                            | Middleton   | 1,873                    |   |
|                            | Mulgrave  | 627                      |   |
|                            | Oxford  | 1,170                    |   |
|                            | Port Hawkesbury                                     | 3,210                    |   |
|                            | Shelburne   | 1,644                    |   |
|                            | Stewiacke   | 1,557                    |   |
|                            | Annapolis   | 18,834                   |   |
|                            | Antigonish  | 15,101                   |   |
|                            | Argyle  | 7,870                    |   |
|                            | Barrington  | 6,523                    |   |
|                            | Chester   | 10,693                   |   |
|                            | Clare   | 7,678                    |   |
|                            | Colchester  | 36,044                   |   |
|                            | Cumberland  | 19,964                   |   |
|                            | Digby   | 7,242                    |   |
|                            | East Hants  | 22,892                   |   |
|                            | Guysborough   | 4,585                    |   |
|                            | Inverness   | 13,329                   |   |
|                            | Kings   | 47,918                   |   |
|                            | Lunenburg   | 25,545                   |   |
|                            | Pictou  | 20,676                   |   |
|                            | Richmond  | 8,509                    |   |
|                            | Shelburne   | 4,336                    |   |
|                            | St. Mary's  | 2,161                    |   |
|                            | Victoria  | 6,750                    |   |
|                            | Yarmouth  | 10,067                   |   |
| MPSA Contract Policing (5) | West Hants  | 19,509                   |   |
|                            | Pictou  | 3,107                    |   |
|                            | Antigonish  | 4,656                    |   |
|                            | Yarmouth  | 6,829                    |   |
|                            | Wolfville   | 5,057                    |   |