

Police Funding Regulation Information Sheet

What is it?

The *Police Funding Regulation* came into force on April 1, 2020 and was created to implement two separate initiatives, both of which address police funding and resourcing matters. These are:

- 1) The implementation of the Police Funding Model (PFM), and
- 2) The absorption of Option 1 Enhanced Policing Positions (EPPs).

The Police Funding Model

What is it?

Providing adequate and effective policing services in the province of Alberta is the responsibility of the provincial government under the *Police Act*.

The police funding model (PFM) takes the total cost of frontline officers and redistributes a portion of those costs to municipalities who receive the services of the Provincial Police Service (RCMP).

The new PFM requires those communities that have not previously paid for frontline policing to begin contributing a portion of the costs.

The Model

The model includes five variables that are used in calculations to distribute the province's costs:

- equalized assessment;
- population;
- crime severity;
- shadow population; and
- detachment location.



Engagement

Stakeholders were able to provide feedback on the test model during webinars and by responding to a survey.

Stakeholders included representatives from:

- Alberta Urban Municipalities Association;
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta; and
- Elected and administrative municipal representatives.

Stakeholders offered valuable perspectives on the costs of policing in Alberta. Feedback from the engagement highlighted several areas of stakeholder concerns.

Based on feedback, JSG amended the test model.

The formula for distribution of costs

Each municipality will have their costs calculated according to a formula comprised of a base amount adjusted by modifiers, where appropriate.

- Base cost (total share of policing costs) formula:
Weighted equalized assessment (50%) + weighted population (50%) = base
- Modifier (subsidies) formulas:
 - **Shadow population:** Subsidy given (max 5%) if officially recognized by the Government of Alberta or according to the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.
 - **Crime Severity Index (CSI):** Subsidy given (0.05% per CSI point) if a municipality's three year average is above the rural three year municipal average.
 - **Detachment:** Subsidy of 5% given for municipalities that do not have a detachment in their community.

Invoicing

Each January, starting in 2021, municipalities will receive an invoice stating the amount that the municipality will pay for that fiscal year.

The invoice a municipality receives for their PFM amount is the amount to be paid. Any modifiers to the amount have already been accounted for in the PFM formula.



Reinvestment

The new police funding model will generate revenue that will be reinvested into policing, with a priority on increasing core policing.

Funds need to be collected in order to do this.

The RCMP and JSG have a plan to invest in RCMP officers and civilian staff that will:

- support rural detachment enhancement (this is the priority in the first few years of reinvestment);
- expand aerial observation capability;
- undertake methamphetamine and opioid initiatives;
- address auto theft;
- continue to advance the Call Management Initiative;
- enhance General Investigative Services; and
- further support vulnerable persons, missing persons, and homicide investigations.

Enhanced Policing

As part of overall efforts to address police resourcing needs in rural Alberta, all EPP Option 1 agreements in existence last fall were terminated as of April 1, 2020. The Government of Alberta has now absorbed the cost of these **full-time policing** positions starting on that date.

As a result of this decision, municipalities that had these EPP Option 1 agreements *retain* the additional resource, but they are *no longer paying for that resource*. They will *not* receive an invoice going forward for EPP Option 1 services after April 1, 2020.

Municipalities still receive the services of the prior EPP Option 1 resource in the same way and purpose as they did prior to the enactment of the *Police Funding Regulation*, at least until such time as the PFM is reviewed.

No Invoice

PFM invoicing is distinct from EPP costs. EPP changes do not affect PFM amounts.

This change effects only EPP Option 1 agreements and municipalities *cannot* enter into any new EPP Option 1 agreements. Seasonal and temporary enhanced policing agreements (Option 2 EPPs) are still accommodated.



Police Advisory Board

The establishment of the new Alberta Police Advisory Board will give communities policed by the RCMP a forum to discuss provincial policing priorities.

The advisory board consists of representatives from the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and the Alberta Association of Police Governance.

Through this venue, municipalities will be able to provide valued advice in matters related to the provincial police strategic and financial plans and further advocate for the resources their communities need to the leadership at the Ministry and RCMP.

Questions can be directed to the Public Security Division at: jsg.PSDEngagement@gov.ab.ca