



INFORMATION REQUEST

INFORMATION REQUEST #: IR-01-25

REQUESTED BY: Mayor Acker

TOPIC: RCMP Comparator Numbers

DATE OF REQUEST: November 17, 2025

DATE OF RESPONSE: November 18, 2025

QUESTION:

What is the current ratio of RCMP officers to population and how much more investment in growth of the municipal contract strength is required to bring the City's contract more in line with the target level.

Response

At the time the RCMP resource plan was created (2023) it was based on 2022 population. The following table indicates the police per population ratio at that point in time related to the Parkland Detachment:

Spruce Grove	1:1290
Stony Plain	1:964
Parkland (Provincial)	1:949

We know that neither Stony Plain or the Provincial resources have been added to since 2023 so those ratios would likely be closer to or slightly above the 1:1000 ratio currently.

For reference, some additional comparators in 2023 are noted in the table below. These may have adjusted slightly since then based on population and whether or not resources have been added; however, does present a high-level comparison.

Leduc	1:1091
Fort Saskatchewan	1:968
Okotoks	1:1119
St. Albert	1:975

Based on an estimated 2026 population for Spruce Grove of approximately 42,000, if the two proposed positions are approved, this would put the City at a 1:1200 ratio.

In order to achieve a similar ratio in line with Stony Plain, the Provincial strength at the detachment, and other comparators (target approximately 1:1000), an additional 7 officers would be needed. This is obviously not financially feasible. Additionally, officer to population ratios is just one measurement of appropriate resource levels which is explained further below.

The proposed 10-year staffing plan identified a phased approach to initial rebalancing resource levels, taking into account financial resources and future growth. The anticipated projections are as follows:

Year	Added Officers
2025	2
2026	2
2027	2
2028	2
2029	1
2030	1
2031	1
2032	1
2033	2
2034	1

This projection could/would be amended based on financial resources, population changes, and/or other strategic factors. The necessary support staff would also be hired to maintain the identified ratio of officer to support staff.

Background

The Alberta average was 1 officer for every 567.2 persons; however, this takes into account jurisdictions that have significant policing needs based on a variety of factors.

It is important to note that police to population ratios is only one factor in considering how many officers a community requires. When examining the total calls for service, criminal case load, community CSI (crime severity index) and other factors, the business case, which was created in concert with the RCMP Detachment Commander, attempts to achieve a balanced approach to increasing resources to meet growth and community safety expectations.

Overall, the City has continued to maintain a CSI rating below the national and provincial average.

Financial Implications/Taxation Impact

As outlined in the budget presentation and business case.

Contact: Chad Priebe, Director, Protective Services, Community and Protective Services,