

City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: CORP-2025-072

Date: July 24, 2025

Originator: Laura Boissonneault

Business Unit: Corporate Services

Department: Financial Services Department

Subject: Precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget for Patrol Vehicle Procurement

Closed Session: yes ☐ no ☒

Recommendation

That City Council approves the precommitment to the 2026 General Capital Budget as outlined in Report to Council CORP 2025-072, dated July 24, 2025, from Laura Boissonneault.

Background

Recent trends in the fleet industry indicate significantly extended lead times for patrol vehicles, particularly those requiring police packages and aftermarket outfitting (e.g., lights, sirens, communication systems, prisoner transport equipment). As per North Bay Police Services, current manufacturer lead times for these vehicles are averaging 8 to 10 months from the time of order to delivery.

Factors contributing to the extended timelines include:

- Manufacturer production constraints due to limited allocation of police-package vehicles.
- Ongoing supply chain disruptions, particularly for critical components such as microchips, emergency lighting systems, and upfitting equipment.
- Limited vendor capacity for installation of specialized equipment, which adds another 3–4 months post-delivery.
- The Minister of Finance has approved a temporary waiver on tariffs for certain goods imported to Canada to October 15, 2025, if they are used by law enforcement agencies. Orders placed after this date may not qualify, potentially increasing both cost and processing time.

Financial/Legal Implications

The North Bay Police Services is requesting a precommitment of 2026 capital funding up to **\$240,000** in order to place purchase orders by September 2025 for preplanned 2026 vehicles. This timeline is critical to:

- Avoid potential cost increases related to tariffs and policy changes
- Ensure timely build slots and factory allocation
- Meet delivery and deployment targets by mid-2026
- Maintain continuity of public safety operations and vehicle rotation schedules

This precommitment will allow North Bay Police Services to secure vehicles within the necessary procurement window while aligning with the 2026 capital plan.

Annually as part of the Police Capital request there is an on-going project in the amount of approximately \$1.6 million (Project No. 6866PD – North Bay Police Services 2025 On-going) to cover such items as fleet renewal. The request for preapproval of a portion of this annual amount is reasonable given the order delays and potential cost mitigation. Furthermore, the City's 2025 approved Capital Budget was balanced for 2026 as such there would be sufficient funding anticipated in 2026 to provide for this precommitment.

Corporate Strategic Plan

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

- Ensure the efficient and effective operations of the city, with consideration to the impact of decisions on the property tax rate

Options Analysis

Option 1: Authorize the precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget funds

This option will allow North Bay Police Services to maintain operations and implement the intended 2026 capital plan. This option is recommended.

Option 2: Not Authorize the precommitment of 2026 Capital Budget funds

Without the authorization there is risk North Bay Police Services may not be able to fulfil the planned 2026 capital requirements. This may cause operational issues and increase costs to the City. This option is not recommended.

Recommended Option

That City Council approves the precommitment to the 2026 General Capital Budget as outlined in Report to Council CORP 2025-072, dated July 24, 2025, from Laura Boissonneault.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Laura Boissonneault, CPA, CGA, PCP

Title: Director, Financial Services / Deputy Treasurer

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name: Margaret Karpenko, CPA, CMA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Laura Boissonneault, CPA, CGA, PCP

Title: Director, Financial Services / Deputy Treasurer