



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor Schaffer and Councillors**

Subject **Strategic Community Investment Fund - Traffic
Fine Revenue Sharing**

Report #: 18-31

From: Darrin Leite, CPA, CA
Director of Corporate Services

File #: 1610.00

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Date: May 14, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council endorse the following motion to be sent to the Provincial government to express the City of Langley's concern about the Province's intent to amend the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing (TFRS) agreement:

WHERE AS the City of Langley acknowledges the receipt of \$472,123 from the Provincial government to help fund the salary of three RCMP officers from traffic fine revenues received in 2017;

WHERE AS the Provincial Government has advised that it intends to amend the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing agreement that has provided municipalities unconditional grants since 2004, returning 100% of the net provincial traffic fine revenues.

WHERE AS 45% of the property tax revenues collected in the City of Langley are required to pay for the escalating policing service costs in the community, creating a significant burden for the local taxpayer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province continue to provide 100% of the traffic fine revenues to municipalities including fines generated by the proposed speed enforcement cameras located at high risk intersections.

PURPOSE:

The Strategic Community Investment Fund Agreement between the City and the Provincial Government requires the City to annually report on the traffic fine revenues

received in the prior year. As well, the City wants to discourage the Provincial Government from changing the 100% share municipalities have received in the past from the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program.

POLICY:

None.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The Provincial Government requires the City to publicly report on the amount of traffic fine revenues received under the Strategic Community Investment Fund Agreement. In 2017, \$472,123 in traffic fine revenues was received from the Province.

In 2004, the Province began returning 100% of the traffic fine revenues to municipalities and the City used the increase traffic fine revenues for that year to hire three RCMP officers. The annual grant continues to provide funding for these three RCMP officers.

The Provincial Government has indicated that they want to expand the traffic fine revenue by installing cameras at intersection that not only ticket drivers who go through on a red light but also clock the speed of the driver to determine if they are speeding through an intersection. Previously, red light cameras traffic fine revenue was allocated 100% to the municipalities. The Province has indicated that it would like to withhold some of the revenues realized by adding the speeding component, to be used to fund ICBC road safety programs. The concern is that municipalities who rely on the traffic fine revenue will receive less revenue once the Province amends the program retaining some of the traffic fine revenues generated in the Province.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The City's adopted 2017 Financial Plan anticipated \$498,200 in traffic fine revenue. The actual funding received of \$472,123 was \$26,077 lower than the budget based on the actual traffic fine revenues generated in the Province during the period. This revenue was generated between April 2015 to March 2016 as there is a lag time between when the revenue is generated and when it is disbursed to the municipalities.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could just acknowledge the traffic fine revenues generated in 2017 itemized in the first Whereas clause.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darrin Leite, CPA, CA
Director of Corporate Services

Attachments:

1. April 5, 2018 letter to the UBCM from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
2. April 30, 2018 response letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing from the UBCM

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer