

November 19, 2024

Council of the County of Bruce
c/o Linda White, Clerk
Bruce County
lwhite@brucecounty.on.ca

Sent by Email

Dear Bruce County Council,

At their meeting on November 12, 2024 the Council of the Municipality of Brockton passed the attached Resolution 24-29-16 regarding a proposal on Court Security and Prisoner Transportation costs.

There is a significant financial impact on many municipalities because of the Ontario Provincial Police's billing statement. In addition, the Municipality of Brockton will be required to pay \$894,993.00 in 2025 strictly for Court Security and Prisoner Transportation costs as our local courthouse is in the Town of Walkerton. The Municipality of Brockton continues to advocate for increased Provincial funding to offset some of the costs of Court Security and Prisoner Transportation but has not yet received notice that any Provincial funding will be received this year.

The Walkerton Courthouse serves several neighbouring municipalities within the County of Bruce, as well as Saugeen First Nation, the Municipality of West Grey, and the Town of Hanover. The Walkerton Courthouse includes matters heard in the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, and the Provincial Offences Court.

Although the Walkerton Courthouse is owned by the County of Bruce and leased to the Ministry of the Attorney General for the Ontario Court of Justice and Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Municipality of Brockton bears the responsibility for funding and providing court security services and prisoner transportation for individuals appearing at the local courthouse.

Brockton taxpayers are experiencing an unfair financial burden due to the courthouse's location in the Town of Walkerton. The Municipality of Brockton have drafted a proposal that the County of Bruce pay the annual costs of court security and prisoner transportation services attributable to Brockton following any Provincial grant funding that may be allocated to Brockton.

We appreciate Bruce County Council's consideration of our proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)
Municipality of Brockton
fhamilton@brockton.ca or 519-881-2223 Ext. 124

Encl. Resolution 24-29-16

c.c Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Bruce

**The Corporation of the Municipality of Brockton - Council Meeting
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 8.12.
Number: 24-29-16
Title: Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Costs Proposal
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Moved By: Steve Travale
Seconded By: Kym Hutcheon

Whereas the Municipality of Brockton has responsibility for funding and providing court security services and prisoner transportation for individuals appearing in the local courthouse, which serves not only residents of Brockton but also residents from neighbouring municipalities within the County of Bruce; and

Whereas these court security and prisoner transportation services, though necessary for the proper functioning of the justice system, represent a significant financial burden on local taxpayers in the amount of \$894,993.00 for 2025, noting that Brockton has not yet received confirmation of any provincial grant funding for this cost; and

Whereas the costs associated with court security and prisoner transportation are disproportionately borne by the Municipality of Brockton, despite the fact that the services are used by individuals from outside the municipality's jurisdiction, including those from surrounding municipalities within the County of Bruce; and

Whereas the County of Grey and the County of Bruce have jointly entered into a Local Side Agreement with the Attorney General for the operation of the Provincial Offences Court in both counties whereby the Counties of Grey and Bruce retain the revenue collected from fines through the Provincial Offences Court, with the Municipality of Brockton paying for the court security costs associated with the Walkerton Provincial Offences Court;

Whereas the County of Grey agreed to pay for any court security and prisoner transportation costs attributable to the City of Owen Sound and not covered by Provincial grants in recognition of the fact that the service is being used by various municipalities throughout the region;

Whereas the municipality has made repeated efforts to address the financial challenges of these services, but the growing costs are unsustainable under the current funding model;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby formally requests that the County of Bruce pay the annual costs of court security and prisoner transportation services attributable to the Municipality of Brockton after any provincial grants have been received as these costs represent an unfair financial burden on the taxpayers of the Municipality of Brockton.

Carried

Original Signed By
Mayor - Chris Peabody