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IN CAMERA: No

DATE: Thursday July 18, 2024

Belleville Police Services Board

Chair Allsopp and members of the Board:

SUBJECT: Axon DraftOne Pilot Project

CHIEF'S RECOMMENDATION:
For the Board to review and approve

The Belleville Police Service has been utilizing its current dictation system (Dictaphone) since 2012. The current process involves an officer dialing into the system and dictating a report over phone. The call recording goes into a queue whereby one of the four full time transcribers picks up the call and then proceeds to manually type up the report, link the involved persons, and attach the report into our current records management system. This system has proven to be extremely inefficient and labour intensive. We currently sit with a queue of approximately 750 reports waiting to be transcribed and are two months behind in our transcription process. The system we currently use is no longer supported by the vendor and will need to be replaced in 2025.

In 2021, the Belleville Police Service commenced searching for a replacement solution that would leverage newer technologies (eg, speech to text) and at that time had evaluated Nuance Winescribe. While it was deemed a 'better' then what we have now solution, the team determined that it was still not the perfect fit and that we would commence working with Axon for an even better solution.

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At the time, the Nuance Winscribe solution was quoted at \$50,431.95USD purchase, with an ongoing maintenance fee of \$21,211.95 USD / year.

The Belleville Police Service will be the first Canadian Police agency to partner with Axon and pilot their DraftOne Generative AI Reporting Solution. This solution was just brought into Canada in June 2024. The platform allows ingestion of different sources of media (bodyworn camera, in vehicle dashcam, and early next year – electronic notes) to assist in the production of an officer report. Case studies have suggested significant officer and civilian time savings as a result of utilizing DraftOne, as well as higher quality and more accurate reports.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XFOOUbgtHQ>

The Belleville Police Service will have until December 2024 to pilot and evaluate Axon's DraftOne at no cost to the Service. If successful leveraging this technology will significantly reduce the time spent by our front line officers dictating their reports. It encourages better articulation on the part of the officers as the more thorough the investigative process the better the quality of the AI generated report. It also allows for our sworn staff to remain out on patrol in our community rather than returning to our headquarters to work on the more lengthy, detailed reports. Our civilian transcribers can then focus on other administrative tasks such as linking and verifying data as well as supporting our front end officers with Crown Brief preparation and other required paperwork.

A detailed analysis of the pilot project and the costs/benefits will be provided to the Board at the conclusion of the project in December of this year.