



Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda

Date: **Tuesday, November 28, 2023**  
Time: **3:00 pm**  
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

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	Pages
<b>1. Call To Order</b>	
<b>1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement</b>	
<p>“I would like to acknowledge that our gathering today is taking place in (MEEG-MA-GEE), the traditional, unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. I would also like to acknowledge that Nova Scotia has another unique people. These are the Indigenous Blacks of Nova Scotia whose legacy and contributions date back over 400 years predating confederation of this land. We are all treaty people.”</p>	
<b>1.2 Amendments to Agenda</b>	
<b>1.3 Approval of Agenda</b>	
<b>1.4 Approval of Minutes - October 17, 2023</b>	1 - 3
<b>2. Business Arising</b>	
<b>3. Discussion / Information Items</b>	
<b>3.1 Capital Budget</b>	4 - 6
<b>3.2 Safe Approach and Rescue Vehicle Purchase and MOU</b>	7 - 39
<b>3.3 Staff Updates</b>	40 - 40
<b>4. Reports</b>	
<b>4.1 Chief's Report</b>	41 - 44
<b>5. Next Meeting</b>	

**6. In Camera**

**6.1 Approval of Agenda**

**6.2 Approval of Minutes**

**6.3 MGA 22(2)(c) - personnel matters**

**6.4 MGA 22(2)(c) - personnel matters**

**7. Adjournment**

**Town of Amherst  
Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
Minutes**

**Date:** October 17, 2023  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers, Town Hall

**Members Present** Commissioner Paul Calder, Chair  
Commissioner Hal Davidson, Vice Chair  
Commissioner, Charlie Chambers  
Commissioner George Baker  
Commissioner Sandy Fairbanks

**Members Absent** Commissioner Holly MacDonald  
Commissioner Angela Ryan Bourgeois

**Staff Present** Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Tim Hunter, Deputy Chief  
Jason MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer  
Natalie LeBlanc, Municipal Clerk

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**1. Call To Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order.

**1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Chair gave the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**1.2 Amendments to Agenda**

Commissioner Davidson requested that RCMP Consultation be added to the agenda.

**1.3 Approval of Agenda**

**Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks**

**Seconded By Commissioner Chambers**

**To approve the agenda with the addition of 3.5 RCMP Consultation.**

**Motion Carried**

**1.4 Approval of Minutes - May 30, 2023**

**Moved By Commissioner Baker**

**Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks**

**That the minutes of the May 30, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.**

**Motion Carried**

**2. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

**3. Discussion / Information Items**

**3.1 Strategic Planning**

Chief Pike reviewed the memo included in the agenda package. Information item only at this time.

**3.2 Police Governance Conference Update and Discussion**

Commissioner Davidson briefed the Board on some of the items discussed at the Canadian Association of Police Governance Conference he attended in August, particularly around the roles and responsibilities of the Board, Board member orientation and training, and the length of Board member appointments.

**Moved By Commissioner Davidson**

**Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks**

**That staff review the Bylaw Respecting the Amherst Board of Police Commissioner, specifically around the length of Board appointments, and provide a report at the next meeting.**

**Motion Carried**

**3.3 Training for Board – Resources**

Chief Pike reviewed his memo included in the agenda package. The Board agreed there is a need for member orientation and training. Information item only at this time.

**3.4 Chamber Letter**

Correspondence included as part of the agenda package. Information item only.

**4. Verbal Updates**

**4.1 Therapy Dog**

Deputy Chief Hunter gave a verbal update on the new therapy dog they are waiting to take possession of. Information item only.

**4.2 Armoured Vehicle**

Chief Pike advised that they are for now holding off on acquiring the armoured vehicle. The CAO asked if there was budget approval for this, had the Board approved this purchase, and further had Council approved it. Chief Pike replied that the one they were anticipating to purchase was at the cost of \$1.00 however it was realized that it was in Edmonton and needed a transmission therefore the purchase was put off. Chief Pike added that such a vehicle would only be used for emergencies and that he expected operational maintenance costs to be minimal. The CAO added that there would also be a level of services expectation, and that communication with the public would have to be well done to avoid any negativity. Commissioner Davidson suggested that a procedure for armoured vehicle usage be developed if and when one is acquired.

**4.3 Auxiliary Policing**

Chief Pike provided a verbal update on the Auxiliary Policing program, indicating the costs related to it such as equipment, uniforms and training will be the biggest costs. He will be including these costs in the 2023/24 budget with the hope of implementing this program once the budget is approved.

**4.4 Camera Program - Pike**

Chief Pike provided a verbal update on the surveillance camera registry program, indicating that at this time staff are researching any obstacles that could come into play once the program is implemented. Information item only.

**4.5 Capital Budget Updates**

**4.5.1 Vests**

Deputy Chief Hunter reported that a successful bidder has been selected, with an expected time of delivery of the vests in mid-January 2024. He added this is light body armour with a 5 year expiration date and that he hopes that when requests for proposals are done next time that they will receive proposals for heavy body armour with a 10 year warranty. Commissioner Davidson expressed his concern with expired vests and any related liability. The CAO asked what does expired mean. The Deputy Chief replied it means they are no longer covered under warranty.

**4.5.2 Recording System**

Deputy Chief Hunter reported that the new recording system has been ordered and built and that they are now waiting for it to be installed.

**4.5.3 Carbines**

Deputy Chief Hunter reported that the carbines were tendered for and order with an expected shipping date of February 2024. The Chair asked how many have been ordered, DC Hunter replied that four were ordered which means they will now have 14 in total.

**4.6 SCEU - Pike**

Chief Pike reviewed his memo included in the agenda package. Information item only.

**5. Chief's Report**

Chief Pike reviewed his report included as part of the agenda package. Information item only.

**6. In Camera**

**Moved By Commissioner Davidson**  
**Seconded By Commissioner Fairbanks**  
**To go in camera.**

**Motion Carried**

**7. Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved By Commissioner Fairbanks**  
**To adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion Carried**

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Natalie LeBlanc  
Board Secretary / Municipal Clerk

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Paul Calder  
Chair

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Date: November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Subject: Capital Budget Approval – 2024/2025

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Prior to the Capital Budget being approved by Council, the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners are required to review and approve the items that have been identified as Capital needs for the Amherst Police Department. Capital expenditures refer to the use of funds to purchase or pay for an asset that is expected to be used for longer than a single reporting period or fiscal year and usually exceeds \$5,000. Capital purchases usually include vehicles, equipment or projects that can depreciate over time. Operational budgets on the other hand, are expenditures or costs that occur within the specified time frame of a fiscal year.

For the 2023/2024 fiscal year, 4 projects/items were approved.

**Paging System for the Amherst Fire Department - \$15,000:** This project changed and another solution was discovered at the cost of approximately \$2,200. This is still in progress and is now being paid from our operational budget (Operational Equipment) rather than the capital budget.

**Ballistic Vests – 20 units - \$30,000:** The warranty on the majority of our regular ballistic vests will expire in March of 2024. These vests are designed to protect against threat levels below high-powered rifles and firearms. This purchase is in progress and members have recently been measured for fit. We expect that the vests will be delivered well in advance of the March 2024 expiry date.

**New Voice Recorder for phone lines/radio transmissions - \$20,000:** Both APD radio communications and selected telephone lines are recorded and kept for a period of time to ensure that we have that information available for criminal proceedings as well as any civil proceedings. This purchase is currently in progress and is projected to come in slightly underbudget.

**Containment and Carbine Equipment - \$16,500:** As approved, we have ordered 4 new carbines along with charging handles, lights, slings, red-dot/zoom sights and other necessary accessories. This will give us a total of 14 carbines for our members to access and use if required and would ensure that more members responding to a higher risk have the appropriate equipment to do so. This purchase came in slightly over-budget with the extra \$1,229 likely to come from “operational equipment” in our annual operational budget.

**APD – Boiler Replacement:** An emergency capital project arose as a result of the Police Department boiler failing. The cost of replacement was estimated to be \$65,000. The new boiler was installed and is working, albeit likely needs some minor adjustments and tuning along with the HVAC system to maximize effectiveness.

**In-House Camera System:** Improvements to the in-house camera system that were authorized in the 2022/23 budget are also nearing completion. Building recordings, both video and audio are often used when reviewing incidents and are often disclosed during criminal prosecutions. The Amherst Police Department has been utilizing digital video systems in the building since 2006. Our current in-house system was installed when the building was new in 2015. This project was approved at \$8,500.

**HVAC Repairs/Review:** \$18,000 was approved in the 2022/2023 budget. This is related to cooling/heating issues in the APD building and inconsistencies with temperature and costs. The tender was approved and a portion of the work is completed.

For the 2024/2025 Capital Budget, we have identified 6 items for the Police Department. Other items had been identified but other options were made available to avoid unnecessary spending. This included a replacement for Police Vehicle #6. This vehicle was slated to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$75,000 but as a result of lower-than-expected mileage, it is being pushed to the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

#### **2024/2025 Capital Budget Requests:**

**Dispatch Console and Accessories – \$115,000:** A new dispatch console was initially slated and approved for the 2018/2019 year to replace our current console. Our current console is 23 years old and is used to tie our radio systems together for use in one unit and enable us to page the fire department. The original price at the time was estimated to be \$50,000. It was decided in the fall of 2018 to abandon this purchase as the consoles we were looking at were not compatible with the TMR2 radio systems. It was slated for purchase again in 2023/24 but we again pushed it back another year as we found a solution for paging the fire department, which was the immediate concern and it was unclear at the time what our needs would be as a result of the Municipality of Cumberland Police Review. A new dispatch console will enable our dispatchers and staff to easily transition from channel to channel and phone line to phone line on touch screen format with solutions for multiple dispatchers. Other municipal departments with dispatching capabilities utilize similar equipment. Costs include software, hardware, headsets, touch screen monitors, and any required computers desks/monitors or office equipment.

**Containment and Carbine Equipment - \$15,000:** All our members are carbine trained, but we have a select number of members (12) who have to do extra training and exercises as a “*Carbine and Containment Team*”. These members have been provided with their own Hard Body Armour and Ballistic Helmets for this purpose, and we have sufficient carbines to ensure that each member can fulfil the basic expectations placed on them in the case of a high-risk incident such as a barricaded person or an active attacker. This year we are interested in purchasing additional containment/carbine equipment to ensure that our members can respond adequately to a high risk while being afforded the protection they, and the public they serve, need. Such equipment includes additional carbines and accessories, additional Ballistic Helmets, Ballistic Shields, radio equipment, protective goggles and other tactical equipment often used in high-risk and critical incidents. This equipment would not only be for those trained for the containment unit, but all members responding to an incident.

**Police Vehicle #1 - \$75,000:** The current Car 1, a 2019 Ford Taurus, was purchased in 2019 and is 4 years old. It has in excess of 161,000km on it and has reached the point where repair costs are extensive and it can no longer withstand the rigors operating as a general patrol vehicle. This vehicle will be kept for use by our Major Crime Unit, which currently has 3 members, but only one vehicle. Costing for new vehicles for the police fleet includes a police package vehicle, and depending on the tender award, may include such accessories as siren/lighting & controls, decal packaging and interior safety equipment such as silent patrolman.

**Body-Cameras and Storage Solution - \$50,000:** Body-worn cameras are worn and utilized by the patrol unit and are a staple in many police agencies. Aside from protecting police officers while on duty, body-worn cameras provide video and audio evidence and information for events and incidents involving the police and the public, often resulting in fewer civilian complaints and provides police accountability and objective record of the incident. Our patrol vehicles all have in-car video and ideally body-worn cameras would be able to integrate with the existing system. Recordings would also require a storage solution which may be saved either on a local server or in the cloud.

**APX500 Base Radio and Install - \$12,000:** With our current TMR2 Radios, we have four usable channels, but our recording capabilities are hard-wired to one channel only. As a result, our second channel 'Tactical' is not recorded, meaning that we often have to approach NS Public Safety to use an encrypted Law Enforcement channel that they record for us. A new console would also make switching back and for easier for our dispatch staff.

**Drone - \$65,000:** Many departments utilize drone technology to promote public safety and security. Our proposal is a joint proposal with the Amherst Fire Department for a shared drone that would be utilized by both agencies in critical incidents, fires, scene security, EMO incidents, search and rescue, demonstrations/protests and other large-scale events. The proposed drone would be required to work in all kinds of weather events due to the nature of public safety emergencies, which can often happen during inclement weather. The proposed drone would be equipped with FLIR (Forward Looking InfraRed), high resolution cameras and extended flight time. Costs would also include training for up to 6 people.

### **Recommendation**

We are requesting that the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners recommend to Amherst Town Council the 2024/2025 Capital Budget of the Amherst Police Department which includes \$115,000 for a new Dispatch Console, \$15,000 for Containment/Carbine Equipment, \$75,000 for the replacement of a Police Vehicle, \$50,000 for Body-Worn Cameras and a storage solution, \$12,000 for an extra Base Radio (APX500) for Dispatch and \$65,000 for a Drone (APD/AFD). The total requested for 2024/25 is \$332,000.

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Date: November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Subject: APD Purchase of Armoured Vehicle from GardaWorld

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We have discussed the possibility of purchasing an armoured vehicle several times over the last few months. As you are aware, GardaWorld is a Canadian private security firm that offers many kinds of security services, including cash transfers. They provide support to public and police safety by often offering decommissioned armoured vehicles to police and first responder organizations at a discounted price. The vehicles are often used by police agencies in high-risk apprehensions and active shooter situations to protect first responders and the public. These vehicles are bulletproof and are able to withstand extreme degrees of heat. GardaWorld has offered a decommissioned armoured vehicle to the Amherst Police Department/Town of Amherst at the discounted price of \$2.00 + applicable taxes.

The vehicle being offered is a 2004 International MF035 with 2 rear axles (dual-wheel) and due to have a final Motor Vehicle Inspection completed prior to sale. The vehicle no longer suits their purpose because of the accumulated the mileage. As part of the MOU surrounding the sale, the Town of Amherst is responsible to remove the current GardaWorld decals and are not permitted to sell to another buyer. When the vehicle reaches end-of-life, GardaWorld will take possession of the vehicle and dispose of it.

An armoured vehicle has fast become a staple of progressive police departments in focusing on community safety and the safety of front-line police officers attending high-risk calls. While the vast majority of police calls do not require a tactical response, the use of specialized equipment and tools has been recognized as an asset to critical incidents when they occur. This vehicle will have several uses when deployed:

1. **Safe approach to an active-attacker scene:** An armoured vehicle provides safe cover and concealment for police when approaching and engaging an active-shooter. It provides more viable and safer options for the operational or immediate action plan.
2. **A means of officer/civilian rescue during a critical incident:** Armoured vehicles have been utilized to enter high risk perimeters to save downed police officers or injured civilians. It can strategically be used to approach injured or trapped persons by providing cover for those down and those responding. For example, it can back up to a building providing safe cover for rescue efforts.
3. **A means of transporting Containment Team members and front-line officers to the scene of an incident:** An armoured vehicle of this size can transport multiple first responders and required equipment to the scene of an incident as in most cases, other police vehicles are already in use and unavailable for providing transports.

4. **A mobile Command Post for Critical incidents of all kinds:** This can include any EMO or police operations.

There are many recent examples of police use of an armoured vehicle to provide protection for front line officers or support rescue initiatives during high-risk incidents, including the recent Mass Casualty in Nova Scotia, the 2018 shootings in Fredericton which killed 3 civilians and 2 police officers, and the police shootings in 2014 in Moncton in which 5 officers were shot, 3 fatally. While we can often rely on the assistance of our policing partners who may already have access to these kinds of tools, it may take hours to deploy to our area, time which we do not have.

In the last few years, GardaWorld has provided armoured vehicles for Miramichi Police and to Charlottetown Police, both of which have been utilized in high-risk calls. Other police agencies have received similar vehicles from the Canadian Military or other private companies.

The Amherst Police Department has recognized the importance of preparing and training for critical incidents. Over the past decade, we have introduced training, techniques and equipment aimed at dealing with the possibility of an increase risk to the public, our members and our policing partners. In the past few months, we have signed MOUs with other municipal agencies in relation to Major Crime Investigations, and access to K9 and Forensic Identification. The purchase of an armoured vehicle would support and enhance this cooperation, not only among our municipal policing partners but also the RCMP and other Public Safety organizations.

Outside of initial start-up costs, annual spending is estimated to be less than \$5000 per year for fuel, regular maintenance and equipment costs. Initial start up costs (paint, and some equipment) will likely be done in-house or with the assistance of community sponsors. We will also require that several members be selected to get their airbrakes license designation. The vehicle will be stored in-doors at all times, either at the town garage storage bay or at the Amherst Police Department with regular maintenance being completed by Amherst Public Works. It will be checked over and driven for short distances weekly to ensure that it remains functional/operational, but will not be utilized as a patrol vehicle. Should the vehicle reach end of life or require repairs outside the 'normal' limits, there is no expectation that the town will replace this vehicle, rather we would, with the approval of Council, approach GardaWorld for another decommissioned vehicle.

The armoured vehicle will be used during annual training exercises which may likely include agencies outside of our own. Such training includes scenarios around officer/civilian rescue, active attacker/shooter, threat containment, initial critical incident response and crisis negotiation. It may also be utilized during special events such as the Christmas Parade, Police Week and other functions.

There should be a media release explaining the MOU and the reasons for this purchase. GardaWorld has been involved in several media releases in regard to their support for Public Safety by offering decommissioned vehicles at a discounted price. Social media and media releases should be utilized to provide information to the public, including media releases for previous purchases by other agencies of an armoured vehicle. The purpose of obtaining this valuable tool is to enhance public safety and provide safe options for police response and rescue.

The purchase and agreement to enter into an MOU with GardaWorld for this equipment was presented to Town Council and approved at a recent Committee of the Whole Meeting (November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023). The support of the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners is also requested.

## ATTACHMENTS:

1. **GardaWorld – Berwyn Illinois Police Department donation** ([Retired Garda Armored Vehicles Gain Second Life | GardaWorld Blog](#))
2. **GardaWorld Supports Miramichi Police Force with Armoured Vehicle Donation** ([GardaWorld donates armored vehicle to Miramichi police force | Blog | GardaWorld](#))
3. **Police Tactical team will ‘absolutely’ save lives** ([Police tactical team will 'absolutely' save lives, Charlottetown police chief says | CBC News](#) )
4. **Armoured Police Vehicles: Fredericton Spends \$350K, Miramichi \$2** ([Armoured police vehicles: Fredericton spends \\$350K, Miramichi \\$2 | CBC News](#))
5. **Photos:**
  - a. Decommissioned Armoured Truck:
    - i. Pages 1-7: 2004 International MF035 (Amherst)
    - ii. Page 8: Miramichi Police Armoured Vehicle (before)
    - iii. Pages 9-10: Miramichi Police Armoured Vehicle (after purchase)
    - iv. Page 11: Charlottetown Police Armoured Vehicle
6. Vehicle Details and Specs



**Garda's** commitment to maintaining the newest fleet of armored vehicles in the industry is a boon to law enforcement agencies throughout America.

The most recent police department to benefit from Garda's vehicle donation program is the Berwyn Illinois Police Department which recently deployed four of Garda's retired armored trucks.

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from our citizens along with other police agencies complimenting us about the capabilities and use of the vehicle.”

Garda’s donation of retired armored vehicles help law enforcement agencies around the country keep citizens safe with crime suppression programs like the one Chief Ritz and his department implemented in Berwyn. They are used to perform surveillance programs in high-crime areas, to support SWAT teams and to deter crime with their mere presence in many communities.

Donating armored vehicles is just one more way Garda is working to make the world more secure.

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GardaWorld strongly believes in supporting the police and all first responders who put their lives on the line to protect the public. To facilitate the work of frontline police in New Brunswick, GardaWorld donated a retired **Cash Management armored vehicle** to the Miramichi Police Department last year, and it was recently used to protect responders in an active shooter situation.

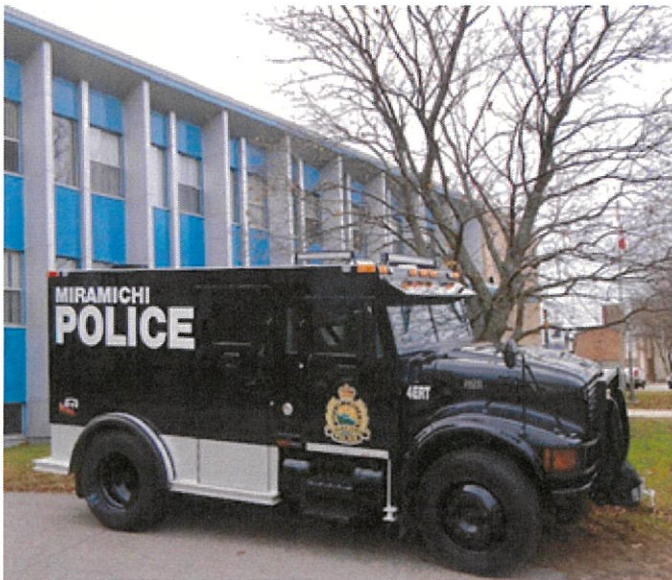
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## A former GardaWorld truck being put to good use

The donated truck is currently in the hands of the Emergency Tactical Response Unit of the Miramichi Police Department. In addition to being used for training, the armored vehicle is deployed in the field during high-risk apprehensions and active shooter situations. The Miramichi Police Department have already used the vehicle in two active shooting situations, including in the police response to a man who opened fire in a Miramichi Walmart in November.



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vehicle will soon be donated to the St. John, New Brunswick police force. GardaWorld is currently working on refurbishing a retired vehicle, bringing it up to top working condition to fulfill the needs of the Saint John police force.

## Giving back in more ways than one

Donating equipment is just one of the ways GardaWorld gives back to communities. We provide training and employment initiatives, as well as in-kind and cash donations as part of our commitment to social responsibility. For example, last year, we donated \$7,500 to **Quebec's Little Brothers organization**, which provides social programming and fosters relationships between volunteers and elderly people to lift their spirits and combat isolation.

## GardaWorld's commitment to corporate social responsibility

Whether we're supporting people **locally** or **abroad**, **corporate social responsibility** is part of our core mission.

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PEI

# Police tactical team will 'absolutely' save lives, Charlottetown police chief says

'Your adrenaline is up because you don't know what's going to unfold'

[Wayne Thibodeau](#) · CBC News · Posted: Dec 20, 2021 6:00 AM AST | Last Updated: December 20, 2021



## Charlottetown's new tactical police unit

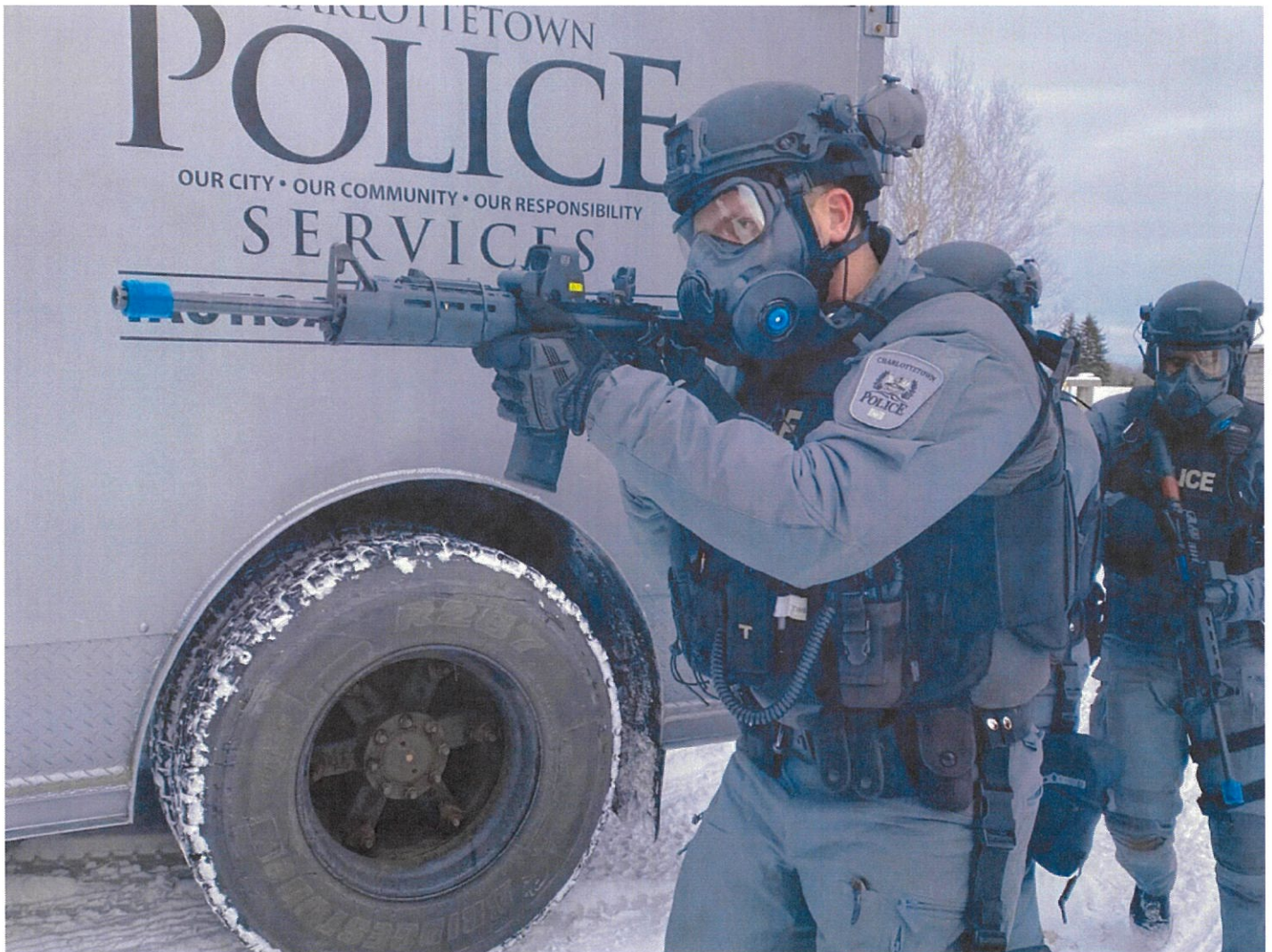
▶ 2 years ago 2:47

**Featured Video** · The new Priority Tactical Response and Containment Team aims to use less lethal options to de-escalate serious situations.

Charlottetown police Chief Brad MacConnell says he's convinced his department's new tactical response team will save lives.

He said the unit's goal is to use less lethal options to de-escalate serious situations to improve the outcomes for everybody involved, including the officers.

The Priority Tactical Response and Containment Team has already been deployed and it's only been in service for a little more than a year.



The Priority Tactical Response and Containment Team's goal is to use less lethal options to de-escalate serious situations to improve the outcomes for everybody involved including the officers. (Wayne Thibodeau/CBC)

Earlier this month, CBC News spent the afternoon with the tactical team as it was put through its monthly training at the Prince Edward Island Firefighting School in

Miltonvale Park, west of Charlottetown.

"If you look at the incidents, the tragic incidents that happened in Fredericton and Moncton, we've learned the lessons from that," said MacConnell. "That we need to make sure that when our officers are responding to situations that can unfold within seconds that our officers are prepared tactically and equipment-wise to deal with those."

## 'Less lethal options'

- [Brad MacConnell named Charlottetown police chief](#)
- [7 new constables sworn in to Charlottetown police services](#)

The eight-member, highly trained team responds to calls with elevated risks, including those involving weapons, drugs or high-risk searches.



Const. Michael Chaloner, a 15-year veteran of Charlottetown Police Services, says officers have more tools now to deal with serious situations than they did before the launch of the tactical team. (Wayne Thibodeau/CBC)

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There are two members on every shift. They stand out from the other officers because their outfit more resembles a military uniform.

Const. Michael Chaloner, a 15-year veteran of Charlottetown Police Services, joined the tactical team when it was formed in the spring of 2021.

Chaloner said officers have more tools now to deal with serious situations than they did before the launch of the tactical team.

"We're able now, through the tools that we have, to use multiple, less lethal options to bring things to a conclusion safely for the person we're dealing with, for ourselves

and for the community," said Chaloner.

Chaloner said officers on his team need to always be on high alert, because incidents in nearby provinces prove serious situations can happen in small places like Charlottetown.

## 'Might ruin the suspect's day'

"Your adrenaline is up because you don't know what's going to unfold but you hopefully, through all the training, and everything that you put in, that you are hopefully going to be able to control the situation enough to have it come out in the way you expect it to. Of course, you always are prepared that it may not but you try to do the best that you can."



The eight-member, highly trained team responds to calls with elevated risks, including those involving weapons, drugs or high risk searches. (Wayne Thibodeau/CBC)

During one of the training scenarios earlier this month, a man was held up with weapons inside a house.

The police department used tear gas to get the man out.

But he refused to respond to officers' demands to get on the ground.

MacConnell watched as police officers used a projectile from a 40-millimetre launcher to knock the man to the ground rather than discharging a firearm or a taser.

"Basically, a projectile, that certainly might ruin the suspect's day but it's not certainly going to endanger his life," said MacConnell, adding it would leave a bad bruise on the individual.

## **'Take the situation under control'**

"It enables the officer to take the situation under control, disarm the person and again improve the outcome so that everyone walks away."



Charlottetown police Chief Brad MacConnell says he's convinced his department's new tactical response team will save lives. (Wayne Thibodeau/CBC)

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Charlottetown police have the only tactical response team based on the Island.

The RCMP's response unit is based in New Brunswick.

MacConnell said his unit is ready and can respond to situations outside the city of Charlottetown, if it's called to do so.

MacConnell said there are checks and balances in place to ensure the tactical unit is used only when necessary.

"None of this happens without certain approvals and we have policies that govern when the team is used," said MacConnell.

"There's accountability on multiple levels and I have every confidence in our team and our leadership in the police department to make sure that they are doing the right thing at the right time."



Charlottetown Const. Phil Miller, left, speaks with Dwayne Pike, Amherst police chief, during a training exercise recently near Charlottetown. Amherst police came over to the Island to watch the police force's Priority Tactical Response and Containment Team do its training. (Wayne Thibodeau/CBC)

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New Brunswick

## Armoured police vehicles: Fredericton spends \$350K, Miramichi \$2

Miramichi buys 23-year-old vehicle for toonie, Fredericton leases its vehicle new

[Bridget Yard](#) · CBC News · Posted: Mar 02, 2017 6:00 AM AST | Last Updated: March 2, 2017



Fredericton police have not released a description of the armoured vehicle they're leasing, but this armoured response vehicle was used at a police scene in Winnipeg's north end. (Jeff Stapleton/CBC)

Two New Brunswick police forces have acquired armoured vehicles this year, but the cost to taxpayers in each city varies greatly.

Fredericton police Chief Leanne Fitch won city council's support for an armoured vehicle, to be leased for \$57,000 a year for six years.

In Miramichi, city council unanimously approved the purchase of a 23-year-old armoured truck from private security firm Gardaworld — for a toonie.

"The price is right for what we're getting and we'll certainly make use of the donation Gardaworld is giving us," said Deputy Chief Brian Cummings of the Miramichi police.

**“We are a drive-through community and we know through this pipeline a lot of criminal activity takes place.”**

*- Leanne Fitch, Fredericton police chief*

The deal on the vehicle came about after a Miramichi sergeant was in touch with someone from the security company, which transports cash between financial institutions.

"The topic of decommissioned armoured vehicles came up in conversation and my sergeant learned they had done this type of thing for other departments in the past," Cummings said.

"It wasn't something we knew about prior. We're thankful we did learn about it."

**'What could possibly go wrong?'**

The Fredericton Police Force has come up against criticism over its armoured vehicle, which it will own when the lease ends. Internally, the vehicle worth nearly \$350,000 will be known as an "armoured rescue vehicle."

"As a taxpayer I'd rather see my money going into more humane efforts," Fredericton resident Kevin Matthews said at a news conference held by Cat Rescue Maritimes — "at least something to help them with their work, rather than to be investing in armoured police vehicles, which I consider to be quite less humane."

In an interview with Terry Seguin on *Information Morning Fredericton*, Fitch defended the department's purchase.

"People look at New Brunswick in a very narrow view, like, 'What happens in New Brunswick? What could possibly go wrong?'" she said.

Fitch points to the "landscape and complexities of policing" and New Brunswick's geographical location as reason enough for the armoured vehicle.



Fredericton police Chief Leanne Fitch defends the force's need for an armoured police vehicle. (CBC)

Framed by the Atlantic

Ocean, Quebec, Nova Scotia and the U.S. border, "we are a drive-through community and we know through this pipeline a lot of criminal activity takes place," said Fitch.

Fredericton's armoured vehicle will be compatible with rural and urban environments and will have all-wheel drive capabilities.

Both police forces plan to wrap the vehicles in department colours and logos.

## Special use, not patrol

Both Fredericton and Miramichi police forces have said their new armoured vehicles will be used only when needed.

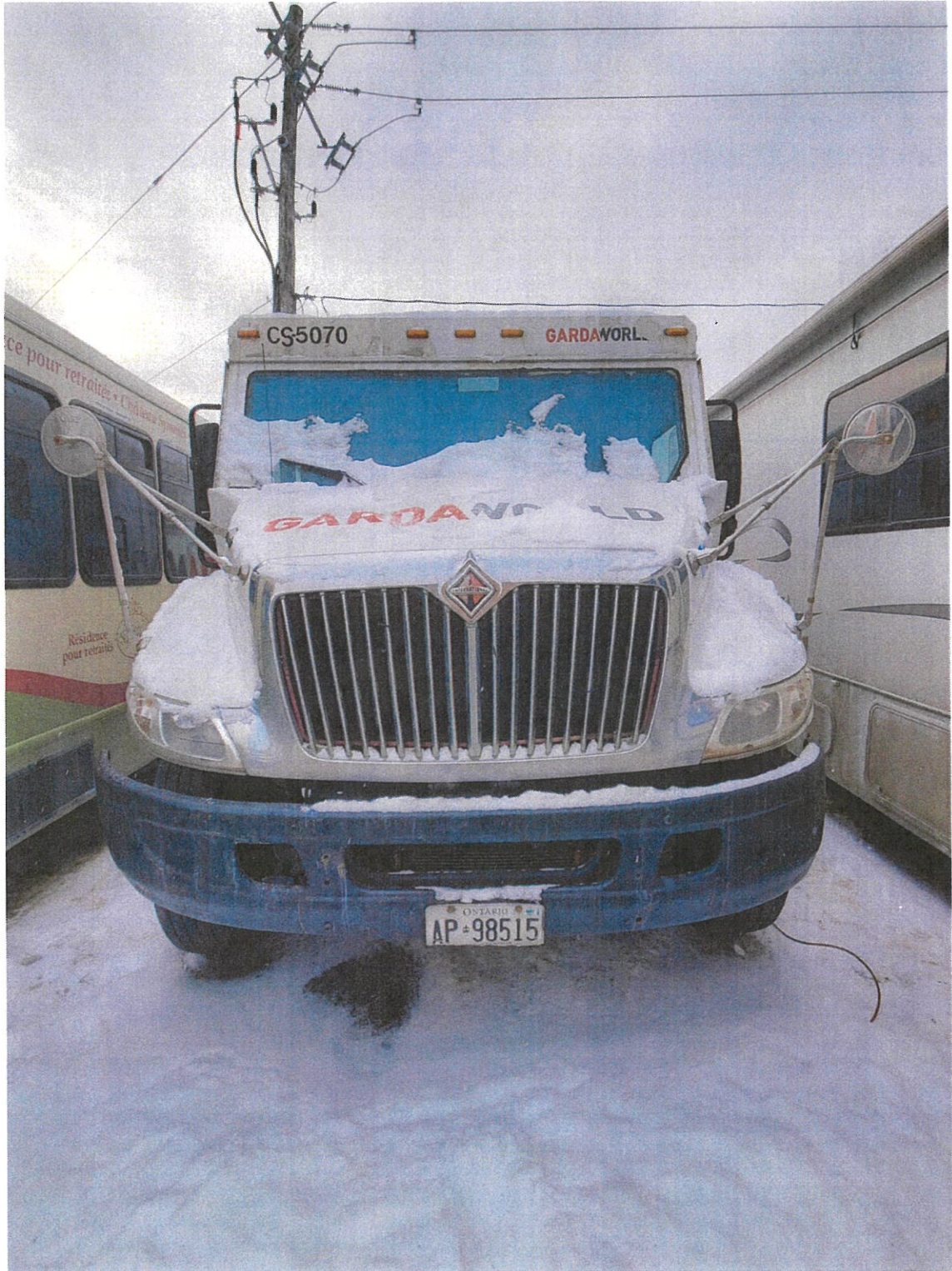
"It's certainly not something that's going to be out on random patrol," said Fitch, who specified the vehicle carries "a clear deployment strategy."

While Miramichi's new vehicle has been used regularly on city streets transporting cash for Gardaworld, it will be employed by the force only "where there's a high risk," said Cummings, citing the 2014 Moncton shooting of RCMP officers as an example of similar vehicles used previously in the province.

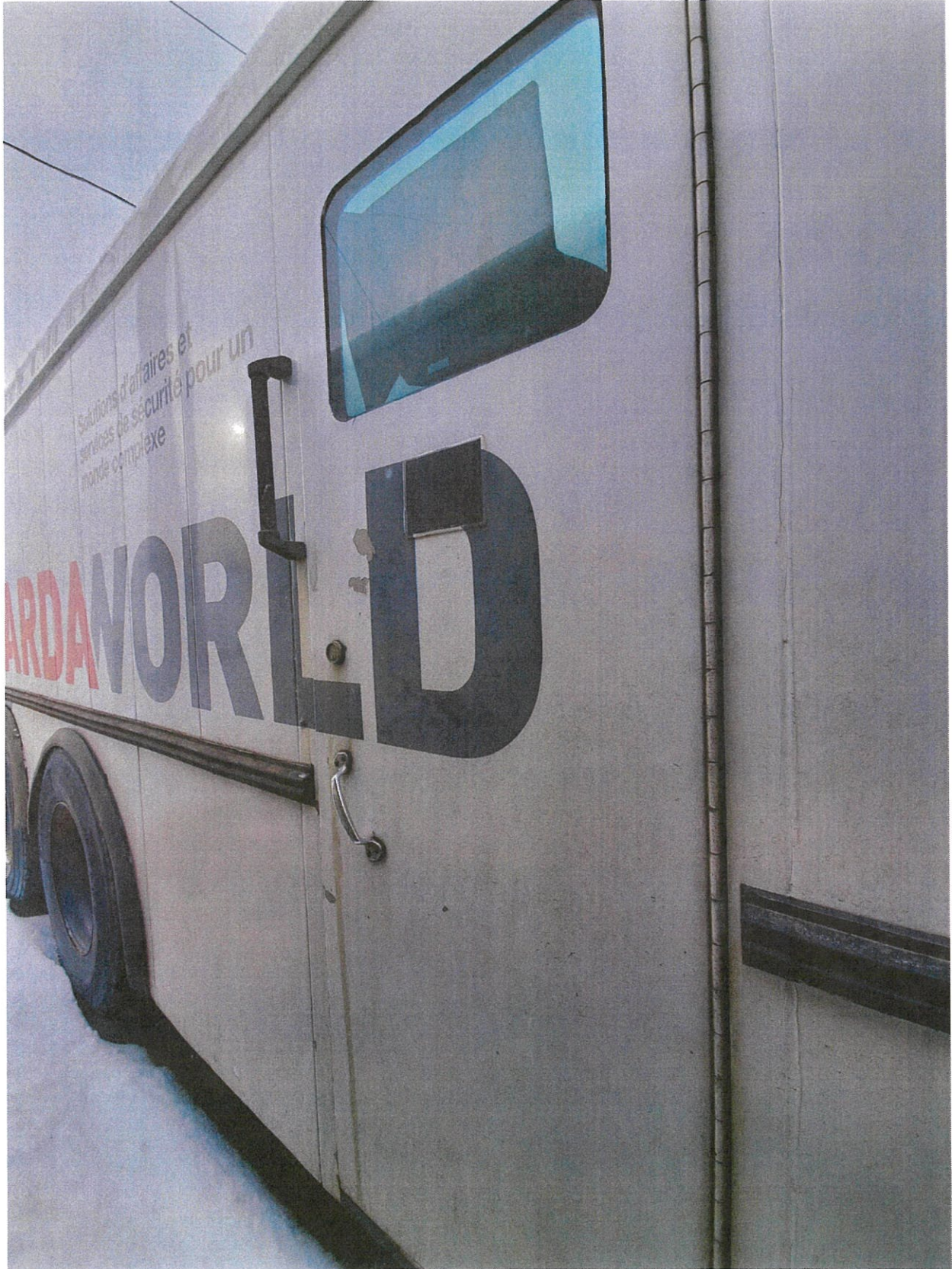
"Some of them were commandeered from financial institutions because they needed them for officer safety."

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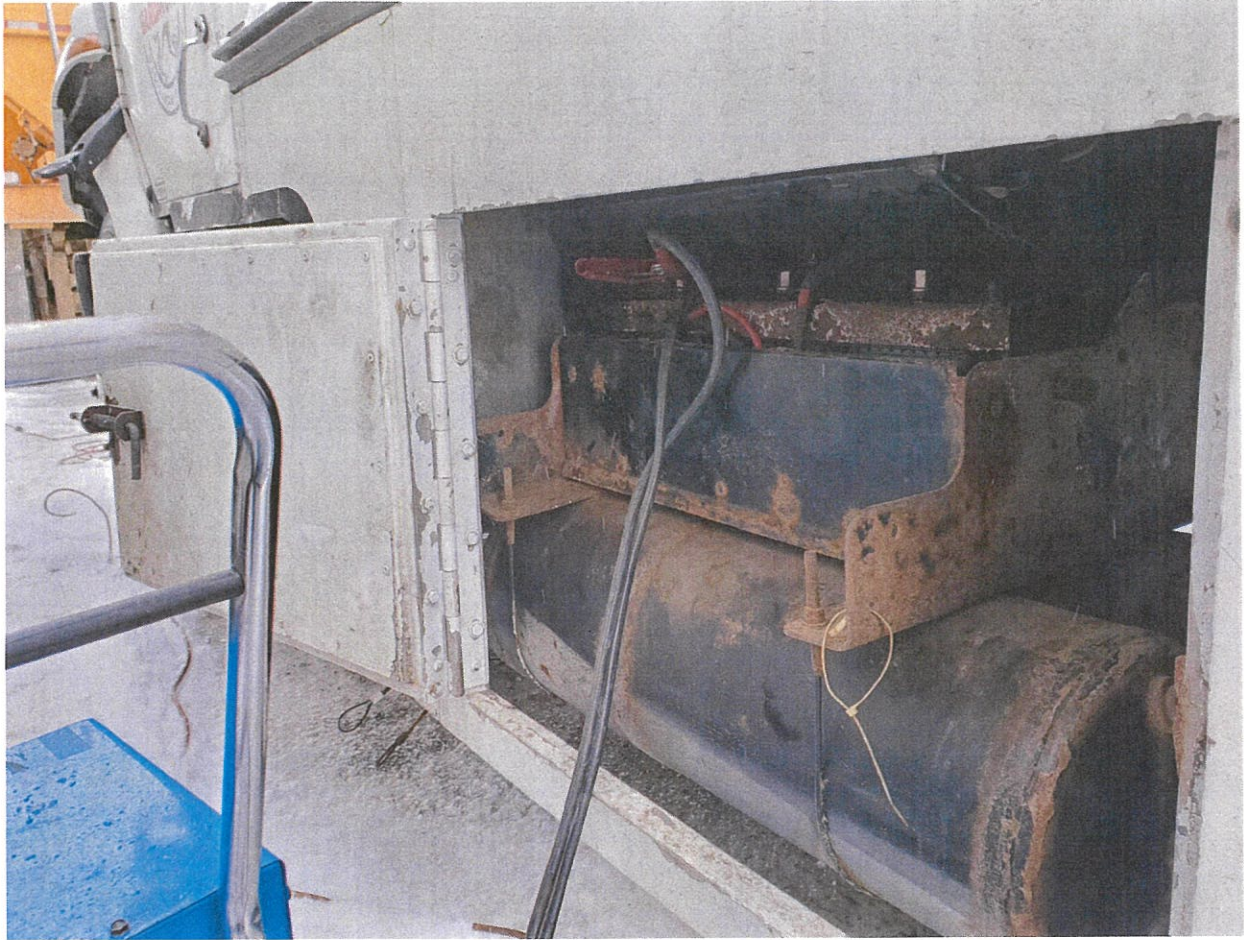
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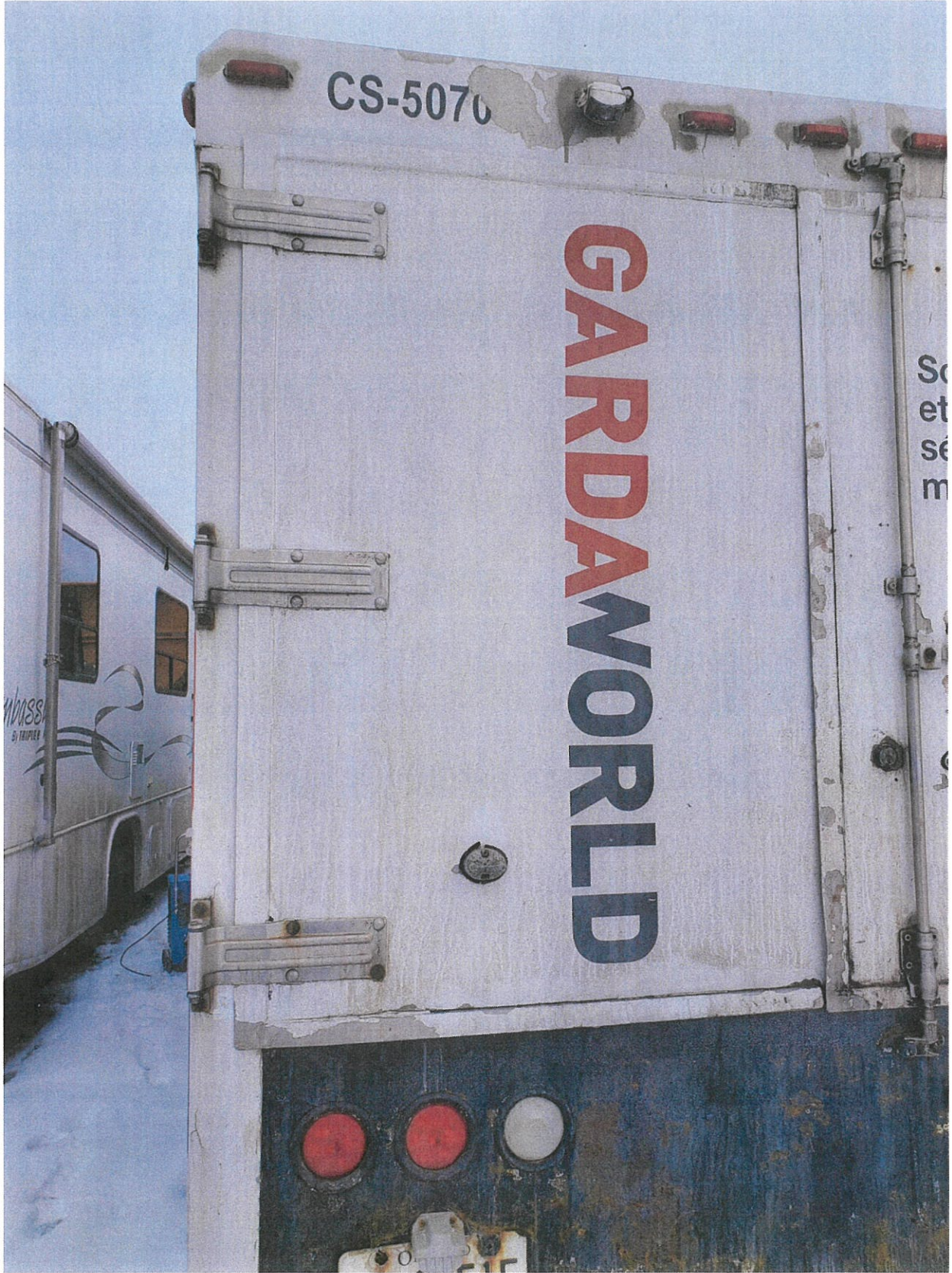
























The screenshot shows a software window titled 'CSS070 [BP70771]'. At the top, there are icons for various functions. Below the title bar, the following information is displayed:

- Unit N°: CSS070
- Plate: BP70771
- Client unit N°: [Empty]
- Odometer: 81239 km
- Main unit: [Empty]
- Status: To be Disposed

A navigation menu includes: Info, Inspections, Maintenance, Warranties, Fixed cost, Informations, Installed parts, Work orders, Invoices.

Vehicle details on the left include:

- FR desc: [Empty]
- EN desc: [Empty]
- Make: INTERNATIONAL
- Model: MF035
- VIN: 1HTMSADR94J019109
- Year: 2004
- Counter: KM
- Weight: 10909
- G-VWR: 23623
- In service: [Empty]
- EDVIR: [Checked]
- EDVIR validity: [Empty]
- Life: 0
- Prov./State: ONTARIO
- Location: Ontario (TV selement)
- Family: Secure Transportation
- Owner: GCS MISSISSAUGA
- Branch: Ontario
- Type: 06 ARMoured TRUCK 10 WHEELS
- Layout: Rear Double Axle with Disk Brakes
- Class: Garda Series

On the right, a table lists specifications:

Specification	Value
1 OWNERSHIP PDF	S:\Scan Docs Ontario Corp Fleet
2 ENGINE	INTNL DT530
3 TRANSMISSION	MD-3060P
4 DIFFERENTIAL	DANASPICER DS405/RS405 / 557
5 WHITE / WHITE GARDAWC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6 G4S	CSS070

**Make and Model:** 2004 International MF035

**Actual Mileage:** 616,638km (new Cluster – showing 81,239km)

**Armour Level:** **Level IIIA** is tested to stop .357 SIG and .44 Magnum ammunition fired from longer barrel handguns. (*The Cab and Rear Cargo of the armoured vehicle*)

**Level IV** offers some of the best protection, and is tested to stop .30cal steel core armor-piercing rifle ammunition. (*The windows of the Armoured Vehicle*)

**Brake System Type:** Air

**Drive Type:** 6x4

**Engine Cylinders:** 6

**Engine Model:** International DT530

**Fuel Type Primary:** Diesel

**VIN:** 1HTMSADR94J019109

# MEMORANDUM

To: Amherst Board of Police Commissioners  
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police  
Date: November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Subject: Staffing Updates

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We recently ran a competition for a full-time position as a result of a member leaving and taking a position with a New Brunswick Police agency. Constable Mark Rushton was the successful candidate in this competition and will be assigned to a permanent platoon on the patrol unit. We were very impressed with Cst Rushton's performance during the competition and in his short time here he has made quite an impact and proven to be an asset to our department and our community. We were also very impressed with the caliber of candidates, all of whom are currently employed with us as part-time officers. It was a very close competition.

As a result of some changes in the Street Crime Unit, we advertised a vacancy, knowing that staffing decisions made could also affect staffing in our Major Crime Unit. We had 5 candidates interested in the Street Crime/MCU positions. The results after interviewing all 5 candidates will see Cst Jeff Goodwin move from Major Crime into the Street Crime Unit and Cst Tristan Follows will move from the Patrol Section to Major Crime to fill the position left vacant by Cst Goodwin.

The Street Crime Unit will be comprised of Cst Stefan Deuville and Cst Jeff Goodwin. The Major Crime unit will be staffed by Cpl Tom Wood (who currently supervises both MCU and SCEU), Cst Jade Pratt and Cst Tristan Follows.

**Chief's Report**  
**Amherst Board of Police Commissioners**  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

This report covers the month of October 2023



**TRAINING**

**Collaborative Communication for Police Leaders:** Chief Pike and D/Chief Hunter attended this training in Dartmouth from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This highly regarded four-day conflict-management training course for police leadership was delivered by Conflict Management Practitioner, Tim Brodie and former RCMP Commanding Officer of "H" Division, Alfonse (Phonse) MacNeil and was secured by Nova Scotia's Department of Justice, Public Safety and Security Division (PSSD) in line with the Mass Casualty Commission Recommendation that leaders from both the RCMP and independent-municipal police services in Nova Scotia receive in-person conflict resolution training.

**2023 Interoperability Forum:** Monicia Ettinger, Ian Smith and Rob Kelly attended the annual Interoperability Forum held at Pier 21 in Halifax. This event is hosted by Nova Scotia Public Safety and is attended by a wide array of community and public safety partners, discussing issues relating to TMR2 systems, interoperability, communications and public safety.

**African Canadian Experience (ACE) Training:** D/Chief Hunter has been selected to attend ACE training from December 4<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup> in Halifax. This interactive training focuses on educating police officials about local Black history and the contemporary social and law enforcement concerns of the Black community. The modules are delivered onsite by Black community members. During the week participants also receive training from Subject Matter Experts on the topics of Black Canadian History, Anti Black Racism, Unconscious Bias, White Privilege, Scenario Based Training, the Canadian Education System, and their impacts on the African Canadian Community and provide resources to assist in eradicating race-based discrimination. In January of 2021, both Chief Pike and Sgt Aaron Graham attended this same training.

**GENERAL OPERATIONAL UPDATES:**

**Homelessness:** Homelessness related files for October dropped to 19, down from 23 in September. There appears to be a trend downward from 26 in August and 56 in July. As usual, the majority of complaints are generated by 2 or 3 people in which police often have multiple contact with each day and are usually centered around trespassing or well-being checks.

**Shoplifting Complaints:** Shoplifting complaints also dropped down to 5 in October, down from 12 complaints of shoplifting in September. In August, we logged 19 complaints. The reasons for the drop may be related to recent convictions that saw some locals incarcerated for a period of time.

**Changes in Occurrences/Charges:** While our occurrences and criminal charges for 2023 have been very high when compared to previous years, September and October stats indicate a change in this trend. In August, our criminal charges numbered 118, but dropped to 50 in September and 57 in October. Our occurrence numbers for October 2023 have also dropped from 556 in September to 486 in October. This again, is likely related to some of the recent arrests that have been made that resulted in offenders being incarcerated.

**OPERATIONAL**

**Fleeing Police/Accident – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** Jason Leroy Leblanc, aged 46 of Amherst has been charged in relation to an incident that occurred shortly after 1:00am on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 when Amherst Police attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a vehicle in the Spring Street area. The vehicle fled from police at a high rate of speed, going through stop signs until it appeared to have stopped near the intersection of Spring Street and Willow Street. When Police

caught up to the vehicle, it was discovered that the vehicle had driven off the road and struck a house at that location. The residence sustained considerable damage as a result of the impact. As a result of the incident, Leblanc and the female passenger were transported to the hospital. Leblanc faces numerous charges that include: Possession of Methamphetamine for the Purpose of Trafficking, Possession of a Weapon for Dangerous Purpose x 5, Breach of a Weapons Prohibition x 2, Possession of Property Obtained by Crime x 6, Driving while Prohibited, Criminal Negligence Causing Bodily Harm, Flight from Police and Dangerous Operation of a Motor Vehicle Causing Bodily Harm x 2. Leblanc is currently in custody and was scheduled for a bail hearing on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Drug charges/Possession of Stolen Property Charges - October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** An Amherst man has been charged with 2 counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking (methamphetamine & Ketamine) as well as charges related to possession of stolen property after an anonymous call was received about a suspicious vehicle and people in a yard. When Police attended, they found a vehicle with a fictitious plate full of property that appeared to come from a nearby residence that appeared to have been breached. They also noted drugs and drug paraphernalia. The premises were secured and the vehicle was seized and towed. A warrant was approved and the vehicle was searched. As a result of the incident, investigators laid applicable charges against Jason Leroy Leblanc, aged 46, of Amherst. Leblanc was arrested on October 17<sup>th</sup> in another incident and was scheduled for a bail hearing on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Stolen Camper/RV – Recovered October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023:** A 30-foot Camper that was reported stolen from Amherst on October 16<sup>th</sup> was located by The APD Street Crime/Major Crime Unit members in the Memramcook NB area on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The attending members were also able to identify the prime suspect and are working with New Brunswick RCMP who will be dealing with applicable charges in the matter.

**Threats/Weapons Charges:** An Amherst man is in custody following an incident on October 9<sup>th</sup> in which he allegedly threatened another man with a machete. Allison White, aged 56, has been arrested and charged with uttering threats, weapons charges and breach of conditions. He was held in custody but released by courts on conditions. Since his initial release, he was been charged twice for breaching his release conditions and was arrested and held in custody.

**Halloween 2023:** Halloween 2023 was once again a very successful event with our members out on foot, making important connects and building relationships while working with our community partners to ensure a safe night for all trick or treaters. There were no reported issues throughout the night and the number of people out was very high with many people obviously having fun.

**OPERATIONAL STATS – October 2023**

Occurrences:	486	Criminal Code Charges:	57
Impaired by Alcohol:	2	CDSA:	2
Impaired by Drug:	1	CBCA:	2
Traffic Tickets:	29	PPA:	1
Traffic Written Warnings:	10	Vehicle Checks:	158
LCA:	2	Foot Patrol Hours:	55 hrs, 37 min
Bike Patrol Hours:	0	Parking Tickets:	0
Prk Warnings:	9		

