



COBOURG POLICE SERVICE

BOARD REPORT

Report to:	Cobourg Police Services Board (CPSB)	
Submitted by:	Chief Paul VandeGraaf	Meeting Type: Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Date:	March 21, 2023	
Report Type:	Information Only Report <input type="checkbox"/> Action Required Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Previous Related Reports:		
Subject/Title:	2022 Use of Force Reporting	

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

THAT the Board finds all related provisions of the Use of Force within the *Police Services Act* have been complied with.

BACKGROUND

In the course of their duties, police officers may face situations that require using force to ensure the safety of the public as well as their own. The authority to use force is established in provincial legislation, as are standards related to approved weapons, training, and reporting.

Officers are instructed to use only the least amount of force necessary to bring an incident under control, make an arrest, or protect themselves or others. In an event where use of force may be used, the officer selects what they feel to be an appropriate and reasonable response based on the situation, including factors such as the subject's behaviour, their own perceptions, and tactical considerations while continuing to assess, plan and act.

Annual use-of-force training for officers is mandated by the Province. It provides officers with the skills to assess, plan and act accordingly to resolve situations they encounter. Good communication and de-escalation techniques are at the forefront of every encounter with the public. In 2022, the Cobourg Police Service continued providing Use-of-Force Training in house with qualified instructors in partnership with the Port Hope Police Service. This training involved Conducted Energy Weapon conversion to the new T7 platform, pistol conversion training, annual use of force refresher and requalification training in intermediate weapons and defensive tactics, immediate action rapid deployment, and C-8 Rifle training. The foundation of this program involves communication and de-escalation. All new recruits and experienced officers are provided with this foundational program which consists of classroom and scenario training with live role players. Additionally, as part of annual use of force training, officers receive both academic and scenario training based on the concepts of incident management and its connection to de-escalating incidents.

Officers are required to submit a use-of-force report whenever they draw a handgun in the presence of a member of the public, point a firearm at a person, discharge a firearm, when a weapon other than a firearm is used on another person, or where physical force has been used on another person that results in an injury requiring medical attention. A use-of-force report is also required when a Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW) is used in probe mode, three-point contact, drive stun mode and when the CEW is used as a demonstrated force presence (overt display of the CEW with the intent to achieve compliance). It should be noted that the use of force report is not required for incidents where an Officer is required to use force and the subject was uninjured as a result. Further regular review is conducted on the service's procedures, training and reporting on the use of force based on information obtained from the reports with each report requiring review by a training analyst who is responsible for oversight while reviewing use of force reports to identify individual and group training requirements.

REPORT SUMMARY

A single use-of-force report may include more than one application of force. For example, last year 11 use-of-force reports were submitted, with 17 applications of force. During their assessment of the situation and subsequent response, the attending officer may have to transition to a higher or lower level of force as the situation unfolds, therefore some use of force reports may cover more than one of the criteria requiring a use of force report to be submitted. One use of force report would then cover all use of force options exercised in a single incident. On the other hand, specialized teams (Tactical Teams) may submit a single report on behalf of all members involved. Furthermore, a single incident responded to by multiple officers may result in more than one report being submitted. De-escalation training is proving effective in reducing the total number of use of force reports from 15 in 2021 to 11 in 2022 for a decrease of 4 reports. Further the application of force decreased from 19 applications of force in 2021 to 17 applications of force in 2022, a reduction of 2.

In 2022 there was an increase in the number of situations where firearms were drawn (+2). Subsequently, situations where firearms were pointed at subjects (+3) also increased. In all incidents Officers were protecting themselves and/or members of the public from a potential lethal

threat, with the end objective of safely effecting an arrest. There was no incidents(s) involving the discharge of firearms to humanely destroy and animal which was so badly injured that humanity dictated its's suffering be ended. There was no incident(s) of a firearm being discharged on a person.

There was an increase of one (+1) Use-of-force reports involving Carbine usage in 2022. The Carbine Rifle was used to protect an entry team and safely effect the arrest of persons during the execution of a drug search warrant. Aerosol spray and impact weapons (soft and hard) are used to assist in gaining control of individuals resisting arrest and in situations where the safety of the officer or a member of the public is at risk. In 2022, aerosol weapons were not deployed. The use of both impact weapons hard and soft remained consistent from 2021 to 2022 with no usages.

Physical techniques used to control a subject that do not involve the use of a weapon, are categorized as an empty hand technique - hard or soft. Soft techniques have a lower probability of causing injuries and can include restraining techniques, joint locks, and non-resistant handcuffing. Hard techniques have a higher probability of causing injury and may include empty hand strikes such as a punch or a kick. Empty hand hard was used a total of one (1) time, consistent with numbers from 2021. The use of empty hand soft technique was reported only one (1) time, a slight decrease by one (1) from 2021.

Did You Know? Less than one percent of all calls attended by the CPS require the use of force. In fact, most calls are resolved solely with officer presence and communication. Effective communication and de-escalation continue to be at the foundation of police-public interactions.

Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW)

The Cobourg Police Service has been equipped with conducted energy weapons (CEW) since 2005 after the Ministry approved the use of weapons by members of containment teams and front-line supervisors.

Policy changes implemented by the Ontario Government (2014) made it possible to provide each officer with their own Taser (CEW). All officers are trained and qualified before being issued their CEW and are required to be qualified annually.

Cobourg Police Service upgraded from an outdated and warranty expired version of the CEW known as the model X2 to the latest and most effective model known as the T7. Numerous technological advances have made the T7 model more effective and reliable than previous models.

The CEW usage is broken down by method of deployment, including:

1. Demonstrated force presence (any situation where the CEW changed the outcome of the call for service);
2. Drive stun mode;
3. Probe deployment mode; or
4. Three-point contact.

In 2022, CEWs were used in three (3) incidents. Two (2) of which involved demonstrated force presence where the CEW was armed and pointed but not deployed, which is a decrease of three (3) incidents from 2021. There was one (1) incident of probe deployment which is consistent with incidents from 2021. There were no incidents involving drive stun or three point contact which is a decrease from (3) incidents from 2021. This suggests officers are leveraging this option to de-escalate calls and gain control of the situation without further escalation in the use of force.

Application of Force	Use-of-Force Reports
2019: 19	2019: 17
2020: 31	2020: 19
2021: 19	2021: 15
2022: 17	2022: 11

Use of Force Statistical Analysis 2021					
Category	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Annual Total
Total # of Reports	1	3	7	4	15
Reason for Use of Force					
Accidental	0	0	0	0	0
Destroy an Animal	0	0	0	1	1
Effect Arrest	1	2	4	1	8
Prevent Offence	1	1	2	1	5
Prevent Escape	1	1	4	3	9
Protect Public	1	1	5	2	9
Protect Self	1	1	7	3	12
Other (specify)	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Physical Control					
Empty Hands Soft	0	0	0	2	2
Empty Hands Hard	0	0	0	1	1
Use of Intermediate Weapons					
Baton	0	0	0	0	0
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0
CEW	0	2	4	2	8
Injuries Sustained in Incidents					
(minor/serious/fatal)					
Subjects	0	0	1 (minor)	2(1minor)(1Serious)	(2 minor)(1 Serious)
Officers	0	0	1 (minor)	0	1 minor
Third Party	0	0	0	0	
Use of Lethal Force Options					
Firearm Drawn	1	1	2	0	4
Firearm Pointed	1	0	2	0	3
Firearm Discharged	0	0	0	1	1
Total # of Subjects Involved	1	3	12	3	19

Race Data Collection					
Black	0	0	0	0	0
East/Southeast Asian	0	0	0	0	0
Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
Latino	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	0	0	0	0	0
South Asian	0	0	3	0	3
White	1	3	9	3	16

Use of Force Statistical Analysis 2022					
Category	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Annual Total
Total # of Reports	5	4	1	1	11
Reason for Use of Force					
Accidental	0	0	0	0	0
Destroy an Animal	0	0	0	0	0
Effect Arrest	5	3	0	1	9
Prevent Offence	0	1	0	0	1
Prevent Escape	0	1	0	1	2
Protect Public	2	1	0	0	3
Protect Self	3	2	1	1	7
Other (specify)	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Physical Control					
Empty Hands Soft	1	0	0	0	1
Empty Hands Hard	1	0	0	0	1
Use of Intermediate Weapons					
Baton	0	0	0	0	0
OC Spray	0	0	0	0	0
CEW	2	1	0	0	3
Injuries Sustained in Incidents (minor/serious/fatal)					
Subjects	1 minor	0	0	0	1 minor
Officers	1 minor	0	0	0	1 minor
Third Party	0	0	0	0	0
Use of Lethal Force Options					
Firearm Drawn	2	3	1	0	6

Firearm Pointed	2	3	0	1	6
Firearm Discharged	0	0	0	0	0
Total # of Subjects Involved	3	4	1	2	10
Race Data Collection					
Black	0	0	0	0	0
East/Southeast Asian	0	0	0	0	0
Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
Latino	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	0	1	0	0	1
South Asian	0	0	0	0	0
White	3	4	1	2	10