

Cobourg Police Services Board Action:

Following a detailed budget review by its Financial Manager regarding financial concerns within the Cobourg Police Service, the Cobourg Police Service Board determined that a forensic audit would be undertaken.

Oversight and Consultation: The Board forwarded its review report to the Inspectorate of Policing, consulted the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and asked the Town of Cobourg Treasurer to complete a comprehensive peer review.

Council Motions: The Town of Cobourg Council has also separately debated and passed or considered motions requesting independent audits and separate audited financial statements for the arm's-length police board through the town's auditor, Baker Tilly.

The timeline of the Cobourg Police Service Board's financial reviews has progressed through a sequence of escalating actions, shifting from early data friction into structured inner committee scrutiny, and culminating in the call for a forensic audit.

Cobourg Police Service Action / Event

Historical Baseline (Sept 2020 – Nov 2022)

Reporting Requests Evaded: Financial data was repeatedly requested from the previous administration, but the required financial documentation was never provided.

Late 2025 The Budget Battle: Finances faced steep scrutiny over the 2026 operational budget. The Police Board requested a 20.5% budget increase (\$1.6 million) to absorb rising core costs previously masked by exhausting one-time corporate Business Centre revenue. Council split over the spike and pulled from municipal reserves to cover it.

July 2026 Internal Review Initiated: Triggered by ongoing fiscal anomalies, the Police Board formally directed its Finance Committee and senior staff to launch a deep-dive review of Expenditures, Revenues, Contractual Obligations, and Year-End Projections.

August 26, 2026 Council Standoff: Cobourg's Mayor attempted to pass a motion demanding an immediate independent, line-by-line review of police spending. No fellow council member would second the motion, resulting in zero debate or council vote at that specific time.

September 9–16, 2026 Review Postponed: The Board announced that its scheduled September 16 Finance Committee update would be temporarily postponed. Additional time was granted to allow the Financial Manager to rigorously complete the complex review.

October 11, 2026 Forensic Audit Triggers: The Board officially reviewed the Financial Manager's finalized report. Within hours, the Board escalated the issue by transferring the report to the Inspectorate of Policing, consulting the OPP, requesting a peer review from the Town Treasurer, and announcing a forensic audit.