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Good morning Mayor and Council. For the second edition of Bruyere Bytes, I want to discuss policing and the impact of recent events downtown. Please note the budgeted amounts I reference here and in future notes are extrapolated from the Budgeted Expenditures chart in the 2024 Draft Budget Presentation posted on the Town's website (using Police = \$10million as a basis). I may be slightly off overall but I don't see the Operating Budget posted elsewhere.

Police ~\$10million or 19.8% of budget

1. If my notes are correct, Esquimalt pays about 13.6% of VicPD budget. Please correct me if I am wrong.
2. Recent events on Pandora Avenue have caused the PoliceChief to announce that fire and paramedic services will only be provided to that district (900 block of Pandora) with a police escort going forward. There are many calls to that area each day.
3. As a result, costs will go up and Victoria and Esquimalt police services will be impacted.

I am aware that Esquimalt is looking at alternative models to de-link ourselves from Vic PD and I support this initiative. However, in the meantime, can we reopen the methodology which was used to arrive at the 13.6% share? Was this based upon crime rates (or some other such metric) when the deal was first struck years ago? As anecdotally it appears Victoria crime rates have risen and Esquimalts are relatively static, perhaps there is a protocol in the original agreement which allows for a reset from time to time. Also, as the Provincial Government's policies and actions or inactions have contributed to the scenes on Pandora and elsewhere, is now the time to approach them once again on the unfairness of having the residents of Esquimalt carry so much of the freight?

I look forward to attending the COTW meeting tonight.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Dan Bruyere  
Esquimalt, BC