

Victoria McKean

From: Victoria McKean
Sent: November-07-25 9:51 AM
To: Council Correspondence
Subject: FW: Rejections to VicPD 2026 budget increase proposal

-----Original Message-----

From: Kat Glasspoole [REDACTED]
Sent: November-07-25 6:43 AM
To: councillors@victoria.ca; Council <Council@esquimalt.ca>
Subject: Rejections to VicPD 2026 budget increase proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Councillors,

I'm writing to oppose VicPD's draft 2026 budget. VicPD receives a disproportionate amount of municipal funding at the expense of community and social services that keep people safe.

Access to libraries and community centres that allow people to stay warm and dry and grant them access to hygiene services do so much for mental and physical health. Fully funded libraries is a small and attainable goal that would alleviate the stress and concerns expressed by downtown businesses and improve the living conditions of our unhoused neighbours.

This suggestion is, of course, a bandaid over the festering wound of a housing crisis we are facing in this province. But we have proven TIME AND TIME AGAIN that more police, or militarized police vehicles, are not a solution.

When the crisis at hand can literally be distilled down to "people don't have houses because they can barely afford food. A person who is hungry and cold all the time is likely to experience a mental health crisis. If you are in a mental health crisis it is hard to find good work or housing, making it difficult to access social services." It's an ouroboros of lack of sufficient social services and more police is an assenine response.

Please reject the proposed 2026 budget increase for VicPD. I would also encourage you to look for opportunities to reduce the existing police budget to further invest in community supports and services and make concrete tangible steps towards ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE housing for all. People deserve to feel safe, seen and heard. Shelters packed to the gills and inadequately funded is not a sufficient solution. Fencing off Pandora is not a solution.

Thank you,

Kat Glasspoole (she/they)
President/Co-Founder Wild Embrace Farm Society
<<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwildembracefarm.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cco uncil.correspondence%40esquimalt.ca%7Cadd43cf571814e35a13f08de1e263a37%7C0f237df218044ea4b852dfcdc7091681%7C0%7C0%7C638981346715223744%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuM DAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoITWFpbCIsIlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IWc%2BlyQAuaOeUAKgK4QgX5ZaVR54VOniFsDI mf4ZuvU%3D&reserved=0>>
Vic West/Esquimalt resident
V9A3E4



Acknowledging that the land on which I live is the unceded territory of the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen-speaking peoples.

Territorial acknowledgements are a near insignificant step towards dismantling colonial systems of oppression. I encourage us all to take a moment to think of other, more active ways to enact decolonization, connect with the land, and honour the Indigenous Peoples who continue to steward this land.

2026 BUDGET Overview

We acknowledge we are on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the *ləkʷəŋən* (Lekwungen) peoples, now known as the Songhees Nation and the *xʷsepsəm* (Esquimalt) Nation.





VicPD 2026 Budget Presentation

Esquimalt Council Meeting
November 2025

November 10, 2025

VicPD



Why This Budget Matters for Esquimalt Residents

- Sustaining high-quality police service for Esquimalt residents and businesses.
- Addressing traffic safety, street disorder, and visible policing - key local concerns.
- Ensuring continued shared access to integrated units and specialized resources.
- Protecting officer wellness and retention in an increasingly complex environment.

Budget Overview

Core Increase 9.82% (\$7,755,058)

**Non-Discretionary
Strategic Growth**

Victoria	Esquimalt	Total	Increase
\$ 5,259,628	\$ 832,840	\$ 6,092,468	7.71%
1,435,313	227,277	1,662,590	2.11%
\$ 6,694,942	\$ 1,060,116	\$ 7,755,058	9.82%

Budget Overview – Esquimalt 13.67%

	%	Base	One-Time	Esquimalt
2025 Approved Budget	9.51%	10,791,769	7,382	\$ 10,799,151
2026 Core Increase:				
Non-Discretionary	7.71%	832,840	-	\$ 832,840
Strategic Growth	2.11%	123,548	103,728	\$ 227,276
Total Core Increase	9.82%	956,388	103,728	1,060,116
Total 2026 Budget		\$ 11,748,157	\$ 111,110	\$ 11,859,267

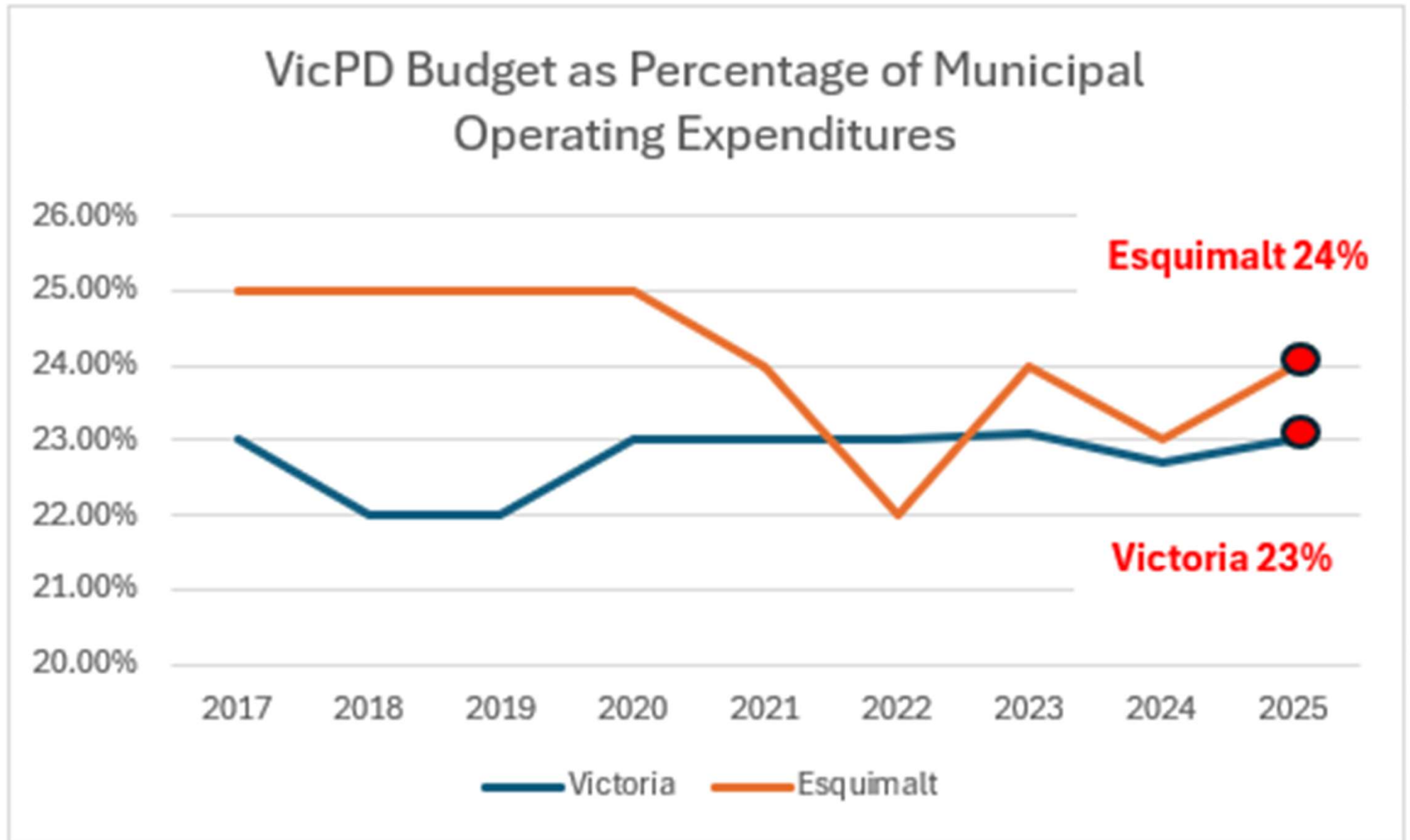
Non-discretionary 7.71% (\$833k)

- Personnel costs at current staffing level - \$4.331M (**Esquimalt \$592k**) (5.48%)
- E-Comm 9-1-1 Levy \$587k (**Esquimalt \$80k**) (0.74%)
- Other Contractual \$870K (**Esquimalt \$119k**) (1.10%)
- Integrated Units \$304k (**Esquimalt \$42k**) (0.39%)

Strategic Growth 2.11% (\$227k)

- **New Ongoing Costs - \$1.028M (Esquimalt \$141k):**
 - 4 Patrol officers
 - 4 Traffic officers
 - Reserve Program expansion \$63,800 (**Esquimalt \$8,721**)
 - Equipment for mountain bikes and undercover program
 - Beyond the Badge expansion
- **New One-Time Costs - \$759k (Esquimalt \$104k)**
 - Hiring costs for 8 core officers \$663k (**Esquimalt \$91k**)
 - Strategic Planning \$100k (**Esquimalt \$14k**)
 - Network Redesign \$50k (**Esquimalt \$7k**)

VicPD Budget Share of Municipal Expenditures



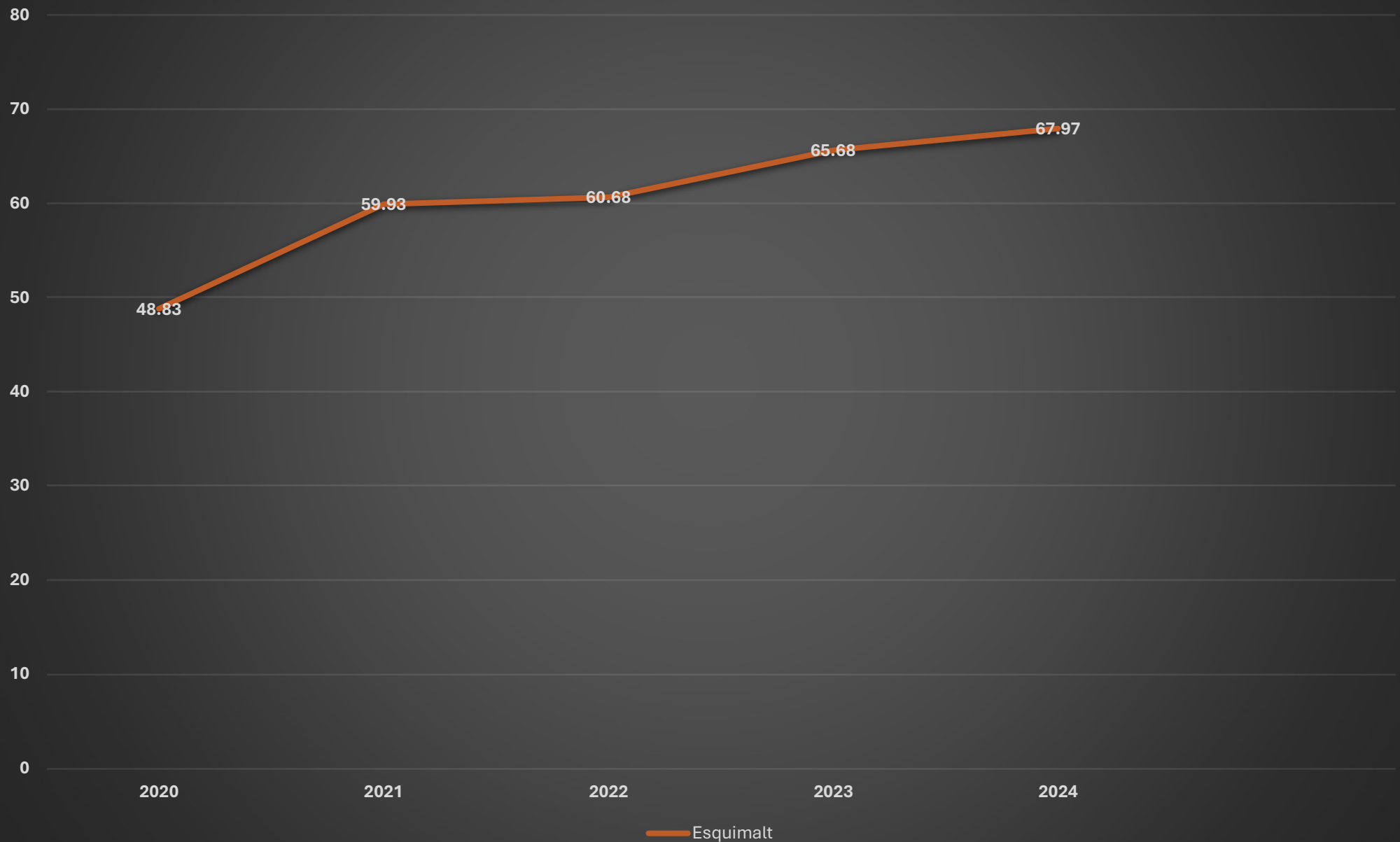
Community Impact for Esquimalt

- Increased traffic enforcement and safety visibility.
- Enhanced response capacity for community calls.
- Stronger coordination with bylaw and community partners.
- Continued access to specialized regional resources (K9, forensics, major crimes, crisis negotiators).
- Shared benefits from integrated technology, training, and intelligence capacity.

Community Safety Snapshot

- Violent crime +26% (2020–2023) from 1,042 to 1,309 per 100,000.
- Crime Severity Index 49 → 68 (Violent crime in Esquimalt has risen faster than Victoria's since 2020)
- Traffic crashes +280%
- Increasing complexity of calls.

Violent Crime Severity Index

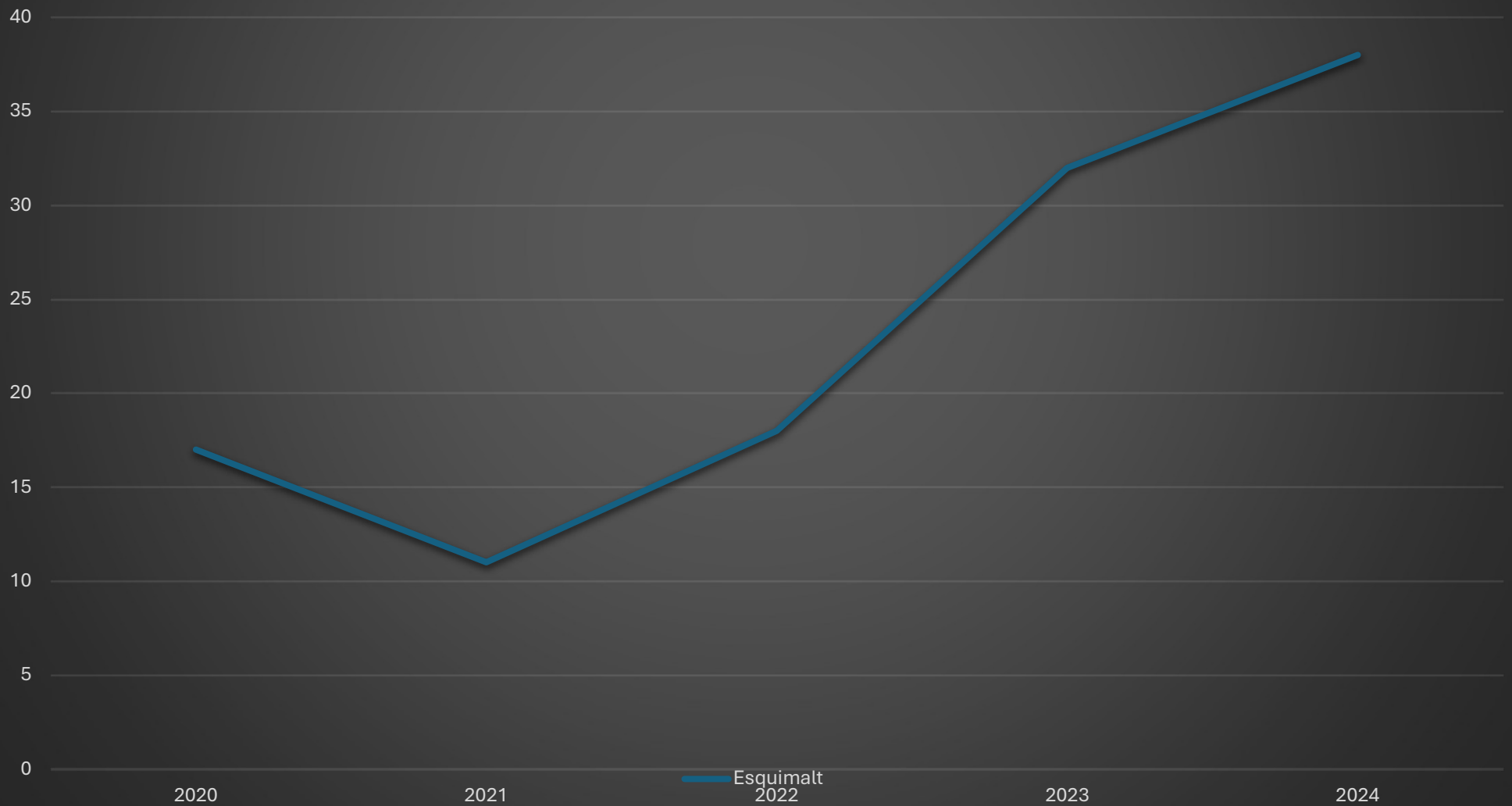


Traffic Collisions Rising in Esquimalt

- Collisions up 280% since 2021
- Concentrated along major corridors
- Need for increased dedicated enforcement.



Traffic Crashes - Esquimalt



Listening to Esquimalt Council

- Traffic safety and enforcement priorities.
- Visibility of uniformed officers and patrol presence.
- Support for community policing and bylaw coordination.
- Desire for operational efficiency and cost accountability.
- Recognition of shared public safety benefits through integration.

What Residents Say.....

Top Concerns: Traffic offences (19%), open drug use (20%), homelessness (15%), break and enter (12%), mental health issues (10%).

Actions Desired: More visible patrols (28%), targeting criminals (20%), more enforcement (17%).

Satisfaction: 79% satisfied with VicPD's work; 86% comfortable speaking to police.

Safety: 96% feel safe during the day; 80% at night.

Victimization: 26% experienced crime in the past five years.

Integrated Policing: Esquimalt's Access to Regional Strength

Esquimalt's investment in VicPD provides full access to specialized regional policing units that no small department could sustain independently. These integrated services ensure immediate, high-quality response to major incidents.

Paying for Readiness – ICE example

- Complex cases that involve extensive digital forensics, national coordination & rapid response when kids are at risk.
- Since 2024, VicPD's ICE team has handled 57 cases between the 2 cities. 19 (33%) in Esquimalt, 38 in Victoria (67%).
- Without VicPD's integrated structure, Esquimalt would lack immediate access to the expertise and technology required for these investigations.

Shared Readiness Protects Both Communities

- LePard (2020) confirmed VicPD provides regional-scale capability that a stand-alone service could not maintain.
- Esquimalt benefits from specialized response: homicide, child exploitation, crisis intervention, and major event management.
- Policing demand is defined by complexity, not call volume - VicPD bears the province's highest case burden per officer.
- Continuous oversight and external audits have verified VicPD's efficiency and transparency.

A Decade with No Meaningful Growth in Authorized Strength

- VicPD's authorized sworn strength increased by 12 officers in 10 years (**243 in 2014 to 255 in 2024.**)
- Over the same decade, the population grew by nearly 15%, while call complexity, oversight, disclosure requirements, public expectations and social disorder increased dramatically.
- At the same time, recruiting and retention has become increasingly challenging.

Authorized Strength VicPD



Questions and Discussion

