

Currently 291 municipalities do not directly pay for policing through their municipal taxes. These communities account for one-fifth (20 per cent) of Alberta's population. Under the proposed costing model, these communities would begin paying a percentage of their frontline policing costs. Frontline policing refers to general duty, traffic, and general investigations, which are about 62 per cent of all policing positions. In 2018-2019, the cost of frontline policing was \$232.5 million.

### Cost Distribution

The proposed costing model distributes costs based on two factors: equalized assessment and population. Equalized assessment would look at the annually calculated assessment value for the municipality to determine the relative resources to pay. The assessment value will be weighted at 70 per cent to determine part of the base cost distribution – the costs to a municipality prior to applying the subsidies.

Using the most recent municipal or federal census data, as reported to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, population would account for 30 per cent of the base cost distribution.

### Cost Modifiers

#### *Shadow Population*

These often are workers who generally live and pay property taxes outside of a community or municipality and are not included in local census data on which per capita funding is based. But when in the community they use the same municipal resources and infrastructure as primary residents. A shadow population cost modifier would enable a subsidy for frontline policing. To receive a maximum five per cent subsidy, a shadow population would need to be recognized and officially reported to Municipal Affairs.

#### *Crime Severity Index*

This measure analyzes changes in police-reported crime rates across the country, and is tracked and reported to Statistics Canada annually. The index allows the ability to track changes in the volume of police-reported crime each year, in the volume of particular offences, and their relative seriousness. More serious offences have a greater impact on the index, which allows comparisons across municipalities. *The crime severity index rural municipal average would be calculated and used as a baseline measure. A community with a higher crime severity index than the baseline would be eligible for a subsidy of 0.05 per cent per index point.*