To: **Committee of the Whole**

Agenda Section: Human Services
Division: Health and Emergency Services
Department: Emergency Management

Item Number: **CCW - 2025-193**

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Subject: **Funding Request from Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka**

Recommendation

That Item CCW 2025-193, dated June 24, 2025, regarding the Funding Request from Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka, be received; and

That an operational fund of $20K for 2025 be provided to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka, subject to an acceptable business plan being received by the County of Simcoe outlining how the organization will spend these funds to support their operations and ensure continued contribution to community safety; and

That this one-time operational fund come from the 2025 operating surplus or the General Contingency Reserve; and

That the Warden send a letter to the Cities of Barrie and Orillia, District Municipality of Muskoka, County of Dufferin and the Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka Board outlining the County contribution and encouraging all partners to engage Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka to consider a representative contribution.

Executive Summary

This report recommends that the County of Simcoe provide one-time funding of $20K to Crime Stoppers of Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka (CSSDM). CSSDM is a volunteer-driven organization that has been helpful in assisting the police in solving crimes through anonymous tips from the public. The funding will help CSSDM continue its current operations and build towards a sustainable financial future. The aim of CSSDM integrates well with the goals of the County's various Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and

supports reduction of crime in the region including County-owned facilities such as community housing.

Background/Analysis/Options

Earlier in 2025, County Council referred a funding request outlined in a letter from the CSSDM Board (Schedule 1) and a letter from the District Municipality of Muskoka District Chair Jeff Lehman (Schedule 2) to staff for a report back to investigate funding options.

CSSDM has been in operation since 1987 and has made meaningful contributions to community safety. According to CSSDM there have been over $95M worth of drugs seized, and over $13M worth of property recovered because of tips since their inception. In 2024 alone there were nearly 1,800 tips, over 80 arrests, over 215 charges laid, over $5M in drugs seized and nearly $100K in property recovered. Despite their success, CSSDM is facing severe financial challenges and may have to shut down without sustainable funding.

The financial challenges faced by CSSDM include the loss of office space at a police service building in Barrie, resulting in the need to pay rent for office space. Additionally, they are incurring extra costs for telephone and internet services. The COVID-19 pandemic has also led to a reduction in volunteer fundraising activities and board members. The annual operational cost is approximately $70K, which includes $60K for program operations and an additional $8K to $10K for paying tips that lead to solving crimes.

The District of Muskoka has committed $10K for 2025, but additional funding is needed to cover the current annual operational costs. CSSDM is requesting contributions from the counties and districts they serve to ensure their continued operation. In February 2025, the County of Dufferin also committed $10K for 2025, with direction from their staff to engage partners to find a long-term equitable funding solution. The specific request of the County of Simcoe is one-third of the program operations cost of $60K, equating to a funding request of $20K.

Staff are recommending the County contribute the $20K as a one-time funding support. The County is committed to identifying opportunities within its facilities to support CSSDM’s space requirements, thereby contributing to cost efficiencies and optimal resource utilization. Future assessments will be conducted to determine viable solutions that align with operational and community priorities.

CSSDM is encouraged to continue fundraising and sponsorship activities to cover tips and seek outstanding operation costs from additional municipal partners such as the City of Barrie and City of Orillia. Additional funding may be acquired through direct reach out from CSSDM to local groups such as BIAs and downtown business associations.

Given the alignments with the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* and the requirements of the “provision of community-based crime prevention initiatives” (CSPA

S.39[1]) by police services, it is recommended that CSSDM continue pursuing funding from the various police departments/detachments within its operating areas.

The County of Simcoe has a history of partnering with CSSDM including affixing Crime Stoppers stickers and promotional materials on ambulances, in community and social housing facilities and previous one-time grants.

Contributing to CSSDM aligns with the objectives of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plans and the anonymous tip line will be promoted within the County's community housing portfolio and shared with other housing providers.

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed one-time funding for 2025 of $20K would be funded by operating surplus or the General Contingency Reserve (committed funds).

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

Strengthened Social, Health and Educational Opportunities:
Establish partnerships to identify opportunities for strengthened human services and education to support improved health and well-being of our residents.

Reference Documents

There are no reference documents associated with this Item.

Attachments

Schedule 1 – Funding Request Letter from Crime Stoppers Simcoe-Dufferin-Muskoka
Schedule 2 – Funding Commitment Letter from the District Municipality of Muskoka

Prepared By Grant Durfey, Manager of Emergency Management

Approvals	**Date**
Jane Sinclair, General Manager, Health & Emergency Services	June 17, 2025
Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance	June 17, 2025
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer	June 18, 2025

CRIME STOPPERS
SIMCOE·DUFFERIN·MUSKOKA
1-800-222-8477

December 6, 2024

80 Bradford Street
Suite 236
Barrie, ON L4N 6#7

VIA EMAIL: Jonathan Magill; clerks@simcoe.ca; warden@simcoe.ca

Committee of the Whole
County of Simcoe
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, Ontario
L9X 1N6

Dear Committee of the Whole

Urgent Need for Sustainable Funding

I am writing you on behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka (CSSDM) to request your strong consideration of providing CSSDM with much needed annual financial support for our program.

CSSDM has been in operation since 1987. Crime Stoppers is NOT a police program. CSSDM is a civilian volunteer based crime fighting program which provides a way for the public to anonymously report information about crimes and criminals to the police. The anonymous information is given to Crime Stoppers, who in turn provides the information to the police. Crime Stoppers' tipsters never have to identify themselves, never have to attend court, and may be eligible for cash rewards.

Our mandate is to assist the Police in solving crimes, making our communities and schools safer. Crime Stoppers is based on the simple idea that for every crime committed, someone other than the criminal has information that might solve the crime!

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka services a vast geographical area, encompassing 110,217 square kilometers and 534,203 residents. Our communities are varied, ranging from a large city, to towns, hamlets, and rural areas.

Thus far in 2024, CSSDM has accomplished the following in assisting the police solve crimes with the anonymous help of the citizens of Simcoe, Dufferin and Muskoka:

Tips received: 1,789
Arrests made: 82
Charges laid: 217
Drugs seized: $5,015,213.00
Property recovered: $97,468.00

Since CSSDM began in 1987, over $95,000,000.00 worth of drugs has been seized, and over $13,000,000.00 worth of property has been recovered.

A few years ago there were ten (10) members of the Board of Directors. There were also Volunteer Committee members spread out over the coverage area, actively performing fundraising activities. COVID brought a halt to the volunteer fundraising and committees and the loss of many Board members. CSDSM currently has four volunteer members of the Board, one part-time Office Manager and a police service member who performs the duties of the Police Coordinator.

CSSDM used to have office space for our Office Manager and the Police Coordinator at a police service building in Barrie. We lost that space and have been unable to find office space at any police building in the area. As a result, we now have to pay rent for the office of the Office Manager and Police Coordinator. As well, we now pay for telephone and internet service. It costs approximately $60,000.00 annually to operate the program with an additional $8,000.00 to $10,000.00 required for paying tips annually.

Currently we have enough funds to last us less than a year, and then we would have to shut down the program, unless we can obtain sustainable funding. If CSSDM shuts down, then there would be no anonymous method for Simcoe, Durham or Muskoka residents and businesses to report a crime anonymously!

Recently the Board has taken steps to resurrect the Volunteer Committees, and look at fundraising ideas. However, we are in great need of constant, sustainable funding of $70,000.00 annually. Currently the District of Muskoka provided us with $10,000.00. But In order to provide full funding, the Board of Directors is reaching out to the three counties / districts we serve, seeking equal annual funding from all three.

Crime Stoppers of Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka, which provides this anonymous method of reporting crime to the residents of Simcoe, Dufferin and Muskoka, hereby requests that the County of Simcoe agrees to provide Crime Stoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka with annual funding of one third (1/3) of the operational cost requirement of $70,000.00.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Rick Brady

Rick Brady
Secretary – Crime Stoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka
905-928-7425

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Office of the District Chair

SENT VIA EMAIL (clerks@simcoe.ca)

December 4, 2024

Warden Basil Clarke and Members of County of Simcoe Council
c/o Clerk's Office
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst, ON L9X 1N6

Dear Warden Clarke and Members of County Council,

RE: Crimestoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka

As you may be aware, Crimestoppers Simcoe Dufferin Muskoka have recently gone public with the news that they may have to close due to a lack of funding. This would result in our region losing a successful, impactful, volunteer-driven ally in the fight against crime.

- Since 1987, Crimestoppers SDM is directly responsible for:
  - Tips: 74,697
  - Arrests: 5305
  - Charges: 11,582
  - Rewards approved: $446,797
  - Weapons recovered: 537
  - Property recovered: $13,524,813
  - Drugs seized: $81,852,233

Crimestoppers receives considerable in-kind support (one part-time staff position and office space) from the OPP, but there is a small budget on top of that for their part-time staff member and to pay tips that lead to solving crimes. The total budget is about $70,000. To date, for 2025, the District of Muskoka is the only municipality who has committed funding to Crimestoppers SDM.

With crime a top priority in all of our communities, and given the track record of Crimestoppers, they are an essential tool for the police and community to work together to solve and prevent crime.

I'm writing in the hopes that your Council may consider a municipal contribution for 2025. Between the two Counties, one District, and two Cities served by this chapter, we should be able to collectively ensure Crimestoppers keeps going.

Given their incredible return on investment, and I'm sure public support for this type of grant, it would be my belief that including a grant in the amount of $10,000 ($20,000 for the City of Barrie and the County of Simcoe) could ensure they continue through 2025 while they build towards a more sustainable financial future.

If any Member of Council has any questions regarding this ask or the organization itself, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Lehman
District Chair
THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Cc: Tom Young, Crimestoppers S.D.M.
Rick Maloney, Chair, Bracebridge O.P.P. Detachment Board
Pauline Meunier, Chair, Huntsville O.P.P. Detachment Board