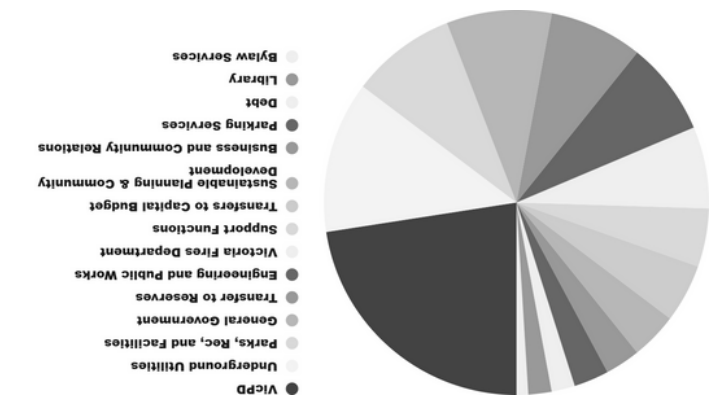




2025 City of Victoria operating expenses

Police operating spending increased by \$8.7 million in 2025, reaching a total of **\$83.2 million**. By comparison, libraries, parks, arts and culture, and funding for housing received an increase of \$700,000 for a budget of only \$45.9 million

operating spending
In 2025, VicPD accounted for 23% of the city's

1. VicPD's budget is astronomical



An info zine about why it's high time we defund the Victoria Police Department and reallocate resources to community supports and services.

Every officer VicPD hires is six people who could have been housed for a year. VicPD had at least 251 officers on payroll in 2024.

What \$156,000 can buy in Victoria

OR

The average VicPD officer made \$156,293 in 2024. The average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in Victoria in August 2025 was \$2,040.

- o Parks (\$31.2M)
- o Victoria Fire Department (\$23.8M)
- o Libraries (\$6.3M)
- o Non-profit grants (\$5.6M and falling)
- o Projects to meet housing targets (\$6.3M)
- o Arts, culture and events (\$3.6M)
- o Affordable housing grants (\$0.3M)

VicPD gets \$6 million more for its operations budget than the city spends on all of these services combined:

We want our city to invest in its people and in community supports and resources, not policing and surveillance!

- o Art, music and culture
 - o Social policy, equity & accessibility
 - o Sustainable transportation
 - o Affordable housing
 - o Climate leadership and environmental stewardship
 - o Prosperity and economic inclusion
 - o Reconciliation and Indigenous relations
 - o Affordable housing
- 21%, or \$1.5 million.** This includes funding cuts to:
- fundings. Community grants, including those funding essential poverty-reduction programs, were cut by**
- Victoria are losing out on essential, life-sustaining community and social services in** (\$8.7 million)
- While VicPD's budget grew by 12% in the last year

2. Community services are losing funding



1. **Talk about the movement to Defund VicPD.** Normalize the conversation through open discussion with the people in your life about what defunding VicPD could mean for your communities. "Defund" is not a dirty word.
2. **Make your voice heard.** The money is already there! Tell your city representatives where you want your tax dollars to go.
3. **Check out the Defund VicPD website, and resource page.** Subscribe to the newsletter to get updates about campaigns, so that we can work collectively to shape change in our communities.
4. **Get involved!** Want to write a blog post, share resources, art or other skills? Reach out to us at defundvicpd@proton.me.

Other recorded violence perpetrated includes:

- VicPD using vehicles as weapons
- VicPD working with CBSA to deport people
- VicPD profiling Black, Indigenous & other POC

VicPD's response to incidents includes violence or the threat of violence.

From 2018-2021, VicPD filed **3,338 use of force reports (over 2 a day!)**, including 1,055 reports where they said the person was in crisis, and 570 reports where they said they injured someone including 214 where they said the person was in crisis.

4. Police cause violence

The vast majority of events VicPD responds to are property damage, theft, or traffic incidents. **Two-thirds of alleged crimes are not even reported to the police in Canada, and only 6% of sexual assaults are formally reported.** Only a fraction of these cases will be prosecuted and result in a conviction.

3. Police do not prevent or resolve violence in our communities

5. Criminal punishment is not justice

Prisons are sites of punishment that subject people to violent, unsafe, and abusive conditions. Prisons cannot "fix" the social and economic issues and racism that lead to people being criminalized.

Instead, incarceration worsens mental health and substance use issues, separates people from their families and community supports, and destroys employment and housing opportunities. Because prisons do not create healthier and safer communities, people released from prison are most likely return to prison.

