

Police arrest anticipated budget overruns

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The police department escaped 2009 with a \$23,000 surplus, the police services board heard Monday night.

In October, Chief Vern White was looking at a \$600,000 deficit, but by implementing a number of cost-cutting measures, found \$920,000 in savings.

Though police overspent in a number of areas — namely retirement costs, benefits and the Tamil demonstrations — they were offset by savings

in facility costs, fleet maintenance and fuel.

By the time demonstrators left Parliament Hill, the force was left with a \$925,000 bill for overtime and related costs.

Coun. Bob Monette said the overruns related to the protest and expected costs associated with state visits are troubling.

He called for the board to take another crack at convincing the feds to cover some of the costs associated with protests on Parliament Hill.



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Police Chief Vern White said he isn't in favour of decriminalizing marijuana, as some media reported.

The city sent a letter to the government after the Tamil protests ended requesting funds, but in return only got an acknowledgement it had

been received.

"It's close to a million dollars here and we still haven't seen anything from the federal government," Monette said.

More pressing, said Deputy Chief Sue O'Sullivan, is during events such as Canada Day police resources are pushed to the limit. The city also wants reimbursement for costs associated with state visits.

"From an operational point of view, we are at our max," she said.

— Justin Sadler