



HAWCS FACT SHEET



Keeping Calgarians safe:

What HAWCS does:

- Responds to public safety incidents, including weapons calls, shootings, robberies, road rage incidents, break and enters, stolen vehicles, and assaults.
- Searches for missing people and suicidal people
- Safely tracks vehicles driving dangerously
- Locates vehicles and offenders fleeing from police
- Captures crucial video evidence
- Provides overwatch to police and other emergency services

What HAWCS doesn't do:

- Minor traffic enforcement
- Routine patrols

In 2019, HAWCS...

- Responded to 4,121 calls for service
- Located 761 suspects, resulting in 2,366 charges being laid
- Located 44 missing and suicidal people

HAWCS is the first unit on scene in **80%** of calls they attend.

HAWCS can fly from one end of Calgary to the other in **8 minutes**.





Why replacement helicopters are needed?

- The current HAWC1 and HAWC2 helicopters have been used by CPS for 15 years, however are no longer cost effective to maintain. Due to the high number of flight hours accumulated on these helicopters, significant maintenance and repairs would be required in the upcoming year.
- As the current Eurocopter EC120 models are no longer produced, HAWC1 and HAWC2 will be replaced by the Airbus H125 model. The Airbus H125 model is the current industry standard for law enforcement and is used by police agencies in 30 regions across the world, including the Edmonton Police Service.
- Response to calls and flight time is currently limited by the EC120 fuel capacity. With the new Airbus H125, we will be able to increase flight time to 3-4 hours before needing to land and refuel.

Value to Calgarians:

- The new Airbus H125 helicopters are expected to be used to keep Calgarians safe for the next 15 to 20 years. The total cost of each helicopter was \$5.5 million.
- Over \$500,000 was saved by repurposing mapping equipment, search lights, night vision goggles and other technology from the old helicopters.
- Once replaced, the old helicopters will be sold for current market value.
- While purchased from Airbus, the new H125s were assembled locally by Eagle Copters Ltd., a Calgary-based company.

Equipment on the helicopter to help keep Calgarians safe:

 <p>Daylight/Thermal Imaging Camera</p> <p>Allows us to not only see images similar to a standard video camera but also thermal images that are visible through the emission of heat. This is very effective, especially at night.</p>	 <p>Mapping Systems</p> <p>The latest technology to get us to where we need to be quickly.</p>	 <p>Search Light</p> <p>A 50 million candle watt light that can assist us at night.</p>	 <p>Night Vision Goggles</p> <p>Worn by the pilot and the tactical flight officer.</p>
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HISTORY OF HAWCS

- 1993** On Oct. 8, 1993, Cst. Rick Sonnenberg was killed in the line of duty while attempting to lay down a spike belt to stop a stolen vehicle on Deerfoot Trail. As the vehicle approached, Cst. Sonnenberg was struck by the speeding vehicle and killed instantly. Following his death, Cst. Sonnenberg's family created the Rick Sonnenberg Memorial Society and began a public fundraising campaign to purchase a police helicopter.
- 1995** The first HAWCS helicopter, HAWC1, was gifted to CPS from the Rick Sonnenberg Memorial Society, making CPS the first municipal police agency in Canada to have a full-time police helicopter program.
- 2005** The Rick Sonnenberg Memorial Society raises enough money to purchase HAWC2, a used Eurocopter EC120.
- 2006** Due to concerns about the future of the original HAWC1 model, CPS sells the original helicopter and uses the proceeds to offset the purchase of a second EC120 to replace HAWC1.

HAWCS REPLACEMENT PROJECT HISTORY

- 2012** CPS made the decision to save costs and postpone the upcoming scheduled replacement of HAWC1 and HAWC2. At the time, necessary operating equipment was updated to extend the life of the helicopters.
- 2013** Previously scheduled replacement of HAWC2.
- 2016** Previously scheduled replacement of HAWC1.
- SEPT/OCT 2018** CPS presents the replacement of both helicopters in the capital budget submissions to the Calgary Police Commission. CPC approves the capital budget submissions.
- NOV 2018** During budget deliberations, council approves the replacement of HAWC1 and HAWC2 through capital budget allocation.
- MAY 2019** A Request For Proposal for new helicopters is issued. Due to delays in the RFP process, one RFP was issued for both helicopters to be more efficient.
- LATE 2019** An evaluation of all proposals resulted in the selection of Airbus Helicopters' bid of two H125 helicopters.
- 2020** Possession of first helicopter.
- 2021** Expected possession of second helicopter in early 2021.