



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Fire & Rescue Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Wade Bondy, Director Fire Services & Fire Chief

Date to Council: January 12, 2021

Report Number: FIRE-2021-01

Subject: Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2021-2025

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the following equipment purchases for 2021 **be approved:**

		Requested for	Total
		2021	Costs
Fire Equipment			
1	1 Pager	\$ 600	\$ 600
2	10 Firefighter Helmets	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
3	7 Bunker Gear	\$ 18,200	\$ 18,200
4	10 Leather Boots	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500
5	Locker Replacement - Station 1	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
	Sub-total	\$ 45,300	\$ 45,300
			\$ -
	Fire Equipment Lifecycle Reserve	\$ 45,300	\$ 45,300

And that the equipment purchases **be funded** through the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve;

And further that Attachment 1 - Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2021-2025 **be approved.**

Background

The fire equipment capital works plan is intended to maintain equipment in peak operating efficiency and maximize firefighter safety. We have an inventory of equipment and generally try to smooth purchases over the expected life of the equipment.

Comments

The Fire Department employs various types of equipment, which require periodic replacement. National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards recommend regular replacement of certain types of fire equipment as they reach the extent of their recommended useful lives. The funding requested for 2021, detailed below, represents the costs to replace gear that will expire in 2021, purchase required gear for firefighters hired in 2020, as well as replacement of the lockers at Station 1.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. 1 Pager | \$ 600 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing older model unit. | |
| 2. 10 Firefighter helmets | \$ 5,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing helmets, which have reached 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.• Providing new helmets for firefighters hired in 2020.• Firefighting helmets are regulated under the NFPA, which states all firefighter helmets must meet a yearly visual inspection and must be replaced after 10 years. | |
| 3. 10 pair leather boots | \$ 5,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing boots as necessary.• Providing new boots for firefighters hired in 2020.• Firefighting boots are regulated under the NFPA, which states all firefighter boots must meet a yearly visual inspection and must be replaced after 10 years. | |
| 4. 7 sets Firefighter bunker gear | \$ 18,200 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing gear, which has met 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.• Providing gear for firefighters hired in 2020. | |
| 5. Station 1 - Locker Replacement | \$ 16,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing lockers are insufficient in number for the full compliment of 21 firefighters at Station 1, with continued locker replacement proposed for Station 2 in 2022.• Replacement lockers would be locally manufactured and provide a more efficient design for easier cleaning and a better use of space. | |

2021-2025 Expenditure Forecast

Forecast capital expenditures are detailed in Attachment 1 – Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2021-2025. Significant forecasted expenditures include the purchase of new vehicle extrication tools in 2022, replacement of SCBA cylinders in 2023 and 2024 and replacement of the Fire Department radio system in 2023.

Purchase of the vehicle extrication tools in 2022 are proposed for Fire Station 2, to complement the set previously placed into service at Fire Station 1, providing greater coverage for the Town's residents.

On May 12, 2020, Council approved the purchase of replacement self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for Fire Services. The purchase did not include replacement of the existing cylinders, which have remaining useful life until the end of 2024. Purchasing the replacement cylinders over two years ensures that hydrostatic testing, required every 5 years, is not required on all of the cylinders at the same time, and spreads the cost of the cylinders over two years.

Replacement of Fire Services' radio system is proposed in 2023 to align with other County Departments replacement schedule. The contract for the current radio system has been extended twice before and is now set to expire in February of 2021. A separate report will be presented for Council's consideration of contract options for the next few years. The estimated costs shown in Attachment 1 represent the purchase of radio system hardware as a standalone option. The purchase would be completed in accordance with the Purchasing Policy and in cooperation with other Departments, likely reducing the capital costs.

The committee of the County Fire Chiefs have come to a consensus on the design, technology and proposed implementation schedule for the system replacement.

The existing system was designed for commercial use and does not provide many of the features required by emergency services, such as encrypted communications and intrinsically safe hardware for work in hazardous environments. The proposed system design will include features required for the safety of emergency personnel and provide interoperability with neighbouring first responder agencies.

The existing radio system is nearing the end of its useful life and some of the components are no longer supported by the manufacturer, making failures of the system difficult to repair in a timely and cost effective manner.

Consultations

Financial Services

Financial Implications

Administration recommends that the aforementioned equipment for \$45,300 be funded from the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve.

The current Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve annual allocation is inadequate for the five-year term based on the updated equipment replacement schedule. The replacement of the radio system had been anticipated given the age of the existing system and hardware, however, cost estimates and timing were unknown until recently and the second set of vehicle extrication tools is an addition to department equipment.

The radio system replacement represents an upgrade to the existing system and at considerable cost that would place the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve into a large deficit position. Administration recommends that a one-time transfer from the Infrastructure Reserve to partly fund the enhanced radio system be considered in 2023.

Furthermore, an increase to the annual allocation to the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve should be considered during the 2022 budget process to accommodate future replacement of the asset addition (second set of vehicle extrication tools) and upgraded radio system.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐

Social Media ☐

News Release ☐

Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Debbie Kelly
Clerk I - Fire Clerk

Reviewed by:

Wade Bondy
Director Fire Services & Fire Chief, C.E.M.C.

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	Fire Equipment Five (5) Yr Capital Works Plan 2021 - 2025