



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community Safety

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Wade Bondy, Director Community Safety & Fire Chief

Date to Council: February 8, 2022

Report Number: CS-2022-01

Subject: Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2022-2026

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That the 2022 Fire Equipment purchases as summarized in Attachment 1 to Report No. CS-2022-01, Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2022-2026, **be approved;**

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

And further that Attachment 2 to Report No. CS-2022-01, Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2022 – 2026, **be approved.**

Background

The fire equipment capital works plan is intended to maintain equipment in peak operating efficiency and maximize firefighter safety, while spreading purchases over the expected life of the equipment.

Comments

Community Safety 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 2022, detailed below, represents the costs to replace gear that will expire in 2022, to purchase required gear for new firefighters, as well as a set of vehicle extrication equipment and replacement of the lockers at Station 2.

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| 1. 1 Pager (s) | \$600 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing older model unit | |
| 2. 5 Firefighter Helmets | \$2,875 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing helmets, which have reached 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.• Providing helmets for new firefighters.• Firefighter helmets are regulated under the NFPA, which states that all firefighter helmets must meet a yearly inspection and must be replaced after 10 years. | |
| 3. 10 pair leather boots | \$5,500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing existing boots, as necessary.• Providing boots for new firefighters.• Firefighting boots are regulated under the NFPA, which states that all firefighter boots must meet a yearly visual inspection and must be replaced after 10 years. | |
| 4. 6 Bunker Gear | \$16,800 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replacing gear, which has met 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.• Providing gear for new firefighters. | |
| 5. Station 2 – Locker Replacement | \$16,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing lockers are in poor condition due to their age. This will complete locker replacements at both stations, as Station 1 lockers were replaced in 2021.• Replacement lockers will provide a more efficient design for easier cleaning, allowing airflow through gear hung within them and an overall better use of space. Currently when the Department's portable pond is suspended for | |

drying, it covers a number of the lockers making access difficult.

6. Vehicle Extrication \$50,000

- This would be a complementary set of cordless extrication equipment to what was purchased for Station 1 apparatus in 2019. The cordless nature provides better coverage for extrication of patients located in difficult to reach locations.

2022 – 2026 Expenditure Forecast

Forecast capital expenditures are detailed in Attachment 2 – Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2022-2026. Significant forecasted expenditures include the replacement of SCBA cylinders in 2023 and 2024, and replacement of the Fire Department radio system in 2023.

The 2022 purchase of the vehicle extrication tools are for Fire Station #2, to complement the set previously placed into service at Fire Station #1, providing greater coverage for the Town's residents. Cordless extrication equipment allows for quicker operation in difficult to reach locations.

On May 12, 2020, Council approved the purchase of replacement self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for Community Safety. 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 (2) years, ensures that hydrostatic testing, required every five (5) years, is not required on all of the cylinders at the same time, and spreads the cost of the cylinders over two (2) years. The proposed purchase also reduces the total number of cylinders from 108 (3 per SCBA) to 72 (2 per SCBA).

Replacement of Fire Services' radio system is proposed in 2023, to align with other County Departments' replacement schedule. The estimated costs shown in Attachment 2 represent the purchase of radio system hardware as a standalone purchase by the Town, estimated at \$610,000. The purchase would however be completed in accordance with the Purchasing Policy and in cooperation with other Departments, likely reducing the capital costs. The County Fire Chiefs Committee have come to a consensus on the design, technology and proposed implementation schedule for the system replacement, which is consistent with modern emergency response agency radio systems.

The existing radio 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 neighboring first responder agencies during mutual aid events.

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. A separate detailed report will be presented for Council's consideration regarding the selected replacement radio system and associated costs, as part of the 2023 budget considerations.

Consultations

Financial Services

Financial Implications

Administration recommends that the aforementioned equipment purchase in the amount of \$91,775 be funded from the Lifecycle Fire Equipment (Reserve).

The Reserve annual allocation was increased by \$30,000 during the 2021 budget process to accommodate the increased replacement cost of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). As identified in FIRE-2021-1 Fire Equipment Five-year Capital Works Plan 2021-2025, the current Reserve annual allocation is inadequate for the five-year term based on the updated equipment replacement schedule that incorporated replacement of the existing radio system.

The radio system replacement represents an upgrade to the existing system and at considerable cost that would place the Reserve into an irreversible deficit position.

Administration recommends that a one-time transfer from the Infrastructure Reserve, equivalent to the estimated enhanced valuation of the radio system replacement, be considered in 2023 to supplement the Reserve.

Furthermore, an increase of \$35,000 to the annual allocation to the Reserve should be considered during the 2023 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
Fire Clerk

Reviewed by:

Wade Bondy
Director Community Safety & Fire Chief

Reviewed by:

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

Reviewed by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
1	2022 Fire Equipment Capital Summary
2	Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2022-2026