



## 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:** January 26, 2023

**Report Number:** CS-2023-01

**Subject:** Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2023-2027

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** the 2023 Fire Equipment purchases as summarized in Attachment 1 to Report No. CS-2023-01, Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2023-2027, **be approved;**

**And that** the equipment purchases outlined in report CS-20223-01 **be funded** through the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve;

**And further that** a one-time transfer in 2023 of \$500,000 from the Infrastructure Reserve to the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve to fund the radio system replacement **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 2023, detailed below, represents the costs to replace equipment that will expire in 2023, to purchase required equipment for new firefighters, as well as replacement of half of the SCBA cylinder stock, with the balance of the cylinder stock to be replaced in 2024. In addition to these items, funding is being requested to purchase radio hardware to replace the current inventory as the existing system will no longer be supported going forward.

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|--|----------|
| 1. Firefighter Helmets   | \$1,400  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacing existing helmets, which have reached 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.</li><li>• Providing helmets for new firefighters.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> |          |
| 2. Firefighter Boots   | \$1,500  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacing existing boots, as necessary.</li><li>• Providing boots for new firefighters.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>   |          |
| 3. Bunker Gear   | \$12,800 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Replacing gear, which has met 10-year useful life in accordance with NFPA standards.</li></ul>   |          |
| 4. SCBA Cylinder Replacement (50% of inventory)  | \$52,000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) were replaced in 2020. Although the cylinders can remain in service until their expiration date in 2024, the purchase of replacement cylinders is proposed over 2 years to ease the financial burden and to stagger the required testing every 5 years.</li></ul>                            |          |

5. Radio System Equipment \$610,000

- The current radio system is at the end of its useful life and will no longer be supported by the service provider. The recommended replacement is in line with the County Fire Departments' replacement schedule.

Replacement of Fire Services' radio system is proposed in 2023, to align with other County Departments' replacement schedule. The estimated costs shown in Attachment 1 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 will include features required for the safety of emergency personnel and provide interoperability with neighbouring first responder agencies during mutual aid events.

The existing radio system is at 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 brought forward in the second quarter of 2023 for Council's consideration regarding purchase of the specific equipment and a recommended radio system provider for the Town.

## **2024 – 2027 Expenditure Forecast**

Forecast capital expenditures are detailed in Attachment 2 – Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2023-2027. Significant forecasted expenditures include the replacement of the balance of SCBA cylinders in 2024.

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 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).

## **Consultations**

Financial Services

## **Financial Implications**

Administration recommends that the aforementioned equipment purchase in the amount of \$677,700 be funded from the Lifecycle Fire Equipment Reserve.

The Reserve annual requirement has been adjusted to \$125,000 to accommodate the increased equipment replacement costs with respect to the radio system and vehicle extrication tools, as referenced in Council Report CS-2022-01 and in the 2023 Proposed Business Plan and Budget. The annual budget allocation was increased by \$15,000 during the 2023 budget process, to \$85,000, working towards the annual requirement of \$125,000.

The radio system replacement represents an upgrade to the existing system at considerable cost that would place the Reserve into a 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 to supplement the Reserve. The estimated enhanced value is \$500,000 of the estimated \$610,000 purchase cost and is reflected in Attachment 2 to this report.

## 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

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
1	Fire Equipment 2023 Capital Works Plan
2	Fire Equipment Five (5) Year Capital Works Plan 2023-2027 and Reserve Schedule