

Staff Report

Report To: Council
Report From: Phil Schwartz, Fire Chief
Meeting Date: January 14, 2025
Subject: Fire Protection Grant Transfer Payment Agreement

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of staff report 'Fire Protection Grant Transfer Payment Agreement', Council receives this report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The Ontario government is investing \$30 million over three years to provide 374 municipal fire departments with funding to support cancer prevention initiatives.
- The Municipality of West Grey has been approved to receive a Fire Protection Grant of \$24,691.35 to purchase equipment and make infrastructure upgrades, which will help reduce the long-term effects of exposure to fire-related contaminants and chemicals.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

The purchase of equipment to decontaminate bunker gear will help create a safer indoor environment for West Grey firefighters. The decontamination process will trap harmful chemicals and prevent their release into the environment, thus helping to mitigate negative environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

None.

Analysis:

This project aims to create better alignment with provincial legislation, including the *Ontario Health and Safety Act*, the Ministry of Labour's Firefighter's Cancer Prevention Checklist; and best practices for protecting the health and safety of fire service workers in Ontario (Section 4(8): care, maintenance, inspection, and replacement of structural fire fighting personal protective equipment).

The primary focus of the project is to facilitate field decontamination of firefighters and their PPE. This includes the ability to properly clean and dry PPE according to the manufacturer's recommendations. This will improve firefighter health and safety, maximize life span of the PPE, and allow firefighters to return their PPE to service in a timely manner.

Financial Implications:

The total cost of the project and requested amount was \$35,100.00. The amount approved and received \$24,691.35.

With minor adjustments to the project a new total of \$26,336.00 is required, leaving a balance of \$1,644.65 that will be absorbed within the 2025 Fire department operational budget.

Staff will execute the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province for receipt of the approved funding.

Communication Plan:

This report is being communicated through the posting of the agenda on the Municipal website.

Consultation:

Director of Finance, Office of the Fire Marshall, Supplier Quote(s)

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Phil Schwartz, Fire Chief

Submission approved by:

Michele Harris, Chief Administrative Officer

For more information on this report, please contact Phil Schwartz, Fire Chief at pschwartz@westgrey.com or 519-369-2505.