

Managers' Reports

Request for Recommendation Priorities Committee

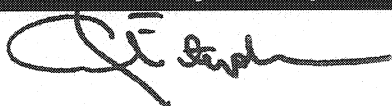


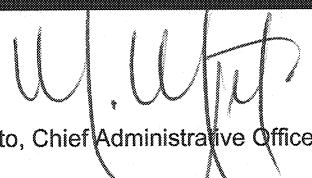
Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	June 29 th , 2005				Report Date	June 13, 2005			
Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes		No		Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High	Low
	Direction Only					Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open	Closed

Report Title
Provincial Grant - Fire Services

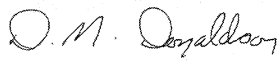
Policy Implications + Budget Impact	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified
No budget impact.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Background attached

Recommendation
That the Provincial grant of \$300,000 received by Fire Services be dedicated to Training for Fire Services and that any unused portion at year end be deferred to 2006 and/or 2007.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendation attached

Recommended by the Department Head
 Alan Stephen, General Manager, Infrastructure and Emergency Services

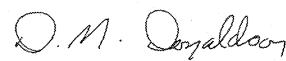
Recommended by the C.A.O.
 Mark Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer

Report Authored By



Donald M. Donaldson, P.Eng.; M.S.M.
Fire Chief

Division Review



Donald M. Donaldson, P. Eng.; M.S.M.
Fire Chief

Introduction

In March of 2005, the Provincial Government provided grant money to every municipal Fire Department in Ontario. This is an unconditional grant, however, there were strong recommendations that the money be used for Fire Service training. A copy of the letter that came with the grant, from Fire Marshall Moyle, is attached at the end of this report.

The C.G.S. Fire Service received a cheque for \$300,000. Currently the money is not being accessed pending the approval of the recommendation included in this report.

Fire Service Plans

The C.G.S. Fire Service would like to utilize this money to enhance the training we can currently provide within the budget already established by Council. This is recommended to be split into two portions (as below), one for Fire Fighter training and the other to handle Fire Prevention related training.

Part One - Fire Fighter Training

This is the area that will receive the largest share of this funding. It is recommended that 90 % (\$270,000) be assigned for Fire Fighter training. This falls within the suggested mandate from the Fire Marshall on how best to utilize this funding.

The goal is to have existing staff qualified as Associate Instructors under the Ontario Fire College (OFC) system. They would then deliver to our staff, these OFC modules that they would be qualified to teach. This allows the Fire Fighters who take these courses to receive accreditation from the OFC.

In order to get these instructors in place, there are associated costs, which are not able to be borne within the existing Fire Services budget. By assigning this money to be utilized for training, we will be in a position to meet the training expectations of our staff and also comply with the legal requirement to provide training to the Fire Fighters.

Additionally, at the existing Smoke/Burn tower at the training site out at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre we use hay and wood pallets to create the heat and smoke conditions of a live fire. However, the longer term goal was to install natural gas fired burners/simulators to create the same environment without the adverse effects of pollution, plus the gas fired unit would be safer. The intent is to utilize some of this funding to achieve that goal much sooner than anticipated, since there was no funding available until now to actually undertake the gas fired conversion.

Part Two - Fire Prevention training

The goal is to assign 10 % of the funds (\$30,000) for Fire Prevention Training. This will include the purchase of a Hazard House to assist with Fire Prevention education to our citizens. There is no funding available within the current budget to provide for this excellent training resource.

Additionally, the display back drop utilized by our Fire Prevention staff needs to be updated. Again we do not have funding for this project within the scope of the existing budget.

The third component under Prevention is to also put in place an Associate Instructor from the OFC for Fire Prevention courses. As above with Fire Fighter training, there will be associated costs for this, which are not within the scope of the existing budget.

Conclusion

Access to this grant money is critical to the local Fire Service to be able to continue down the path we have started upon with regard to the safe delivery of Fire Protection Services. This money will allow the Fire Service to be able to provide quality Fire Prevention education to our citizens and to also provide safe, realistic training to the Fire Fighters utilizing qualified instructors, who will deliver accredited courses.

It is recommended by Fire Services management that this money be assigned to Fire Services training.

Ministry of Community
Safety and Correctional
Services

Ministère de la Sécurité
communautaire et des
Services correctionnels

Office of the
Fire Marshal

Bureau du commissaire
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Ontario

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SUDBURY
FIRE SERVICES

April 4, 2005

Fire Chief Donald Donaldson
Greater Sudbury Fire Services
PO 5000, Station "A"
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3

Dear Fire Chief:

The Honourable Monte Kwinter, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, recently announced that the Government of Ontario is providing 30 million dollars in funding to the Ontario fire service in the form of the Ontario Fire Service Grant. Recently, the Minister sent a grant cheque to each municipality that met the criteria for the grant. The aim of the grant is to support improvements in three areas: training; fire operations equipment and firefighter safety; and fire prevention and public education.

This is great news for the Ontario fire service. This is the first time that the government has provided funding assistance to municipalities in this way to support fire services. I know that in some municipalities, particularly small and rural ones, fire departments are experiencing difficulties in meeting the increasing demands associated with fire protection services. Although the application of the grants is flexible in order to meet the specific needs of individual fire departments, I am asking all fire chiefs to work closely with their fire coordinators to give top priority to training and implementing a regional training plan. A list of items that you may consider for expending the funds is attached.

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has been working with the provincial fire coordinators who have agreed to assist the OFM in coordinating training opportunities within the mutual aid system. I believe that a strong partnership between municipal fire departments, provincial fire coordinators and the Office of the Fire Marshal will result in the most effective use of training funds in the short and long term, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local fire protection delivery systems and the mutual aid system.

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I have forwarded a training strategy and plan document to each fire coordinator, which describes the objectives of the grant and identifies a host of training opportunities available to each fire department. Your fire coordinator will be contacting you to arrange a meeting to develop a regional training plan and inform you of the training opportunities available to fire departments in your response area. Approval by the municipality to participate in the training plan is required.

Training opportunities do not have to be limited to the area covered by your mutual aid system. You may want to take advantage of training facilities in other areas of the province. For example, regional training facilities, such as those in Toronto, Sudbury (ALERTech), Waterloo, Sault Ste. Marie (Aweres), Blyth, Norwood, Windsor, Oakville and Kingston, and other fire departments' facilities could be used for classroom-based and live-fire training. Fire co-ordinators and fire chiefs are encouraged to give consideration to endorsed Ontario Fire College programs, as well as consider using qualified private providers.

The OFM will assign a training coordinator to act as a single point of contact for fire coordinators. This person will identify available resources, such as seconded instructors and associate instructors, in your area. Fire coordinators will be given the telephone and fax numbers of the training coordinator, once this person is in place at the Ontario Fire College (OFC).

The training coordinator will encourage fire departments to make use of the associate instructor model where OFC trained fire department staff members deliver ongoing training locally. The value of the associate instructor model has been demonstrated in the delivery of the Essentials of Incident Management System and haz-mat operations level training.

If you feel that undertaking a more detailed review of your training and operational needs is required to make more informed and judicious decisions regarding the use of the funds, you may wish to discuss with your municipal treasurer, transferring this grant into a reserve fund to be used at a later point, or over more than one municipal budget year, to support fire service training and related expenditures.

The funding your municipality received is unrelated to the annual approved fire department budget. It is meant to support fire department programs, initiatives, and equipment not previously budgeted for by municipalities.

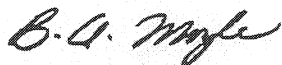
In order to gauge the success of this initiative, it is important that your municipality provide the OFM with information on how the grant funds were expended and identify the types of training activities, fire equipment purchases, and public education activities carried out. The OFM will be sending you a template on how this information is to be collected. I will be requesting the information in approximately six to eight months.

.../3

The collected information will then be presented to the Province in the form of a report. This report will give the Ontario fire service an opportunity to showcase to the Government how successful this type of grant initiative can be in improving fire protection services in Ontario.

This grant will provide much needed funding to the Ontario fire service so that it may continue to deliver outstanding service to the people of this province.

Yours truly,



Bernard A. Moyle
Fire Marshal of Ontario

c: The Honourable Monte Kwinter
Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

David Courtemanche, Mayor

Mark Mieto, Chief Administrative Officer

CONSIDERATIONS

Training Considerations:

- purchase training expertise,
- assist fire departments to purchase equipment and devices and provide funding for associated training related to occupational health and safety,
- pay for hourly or daily rates paid to firefighters for participating in training,
- pay for textbooks, CDs and other materials,
- pay for travel costs, and
- pay backfill/overtime costs for coverage while career firefighter is being trained.

Prevention and Public Education Considerations:

- public education (e.g., Older and Wiser, Risk Watch, training aids and public education information),
- the purchase and installation of smoke alarms,
- arson prevention – such as the implementation of the arson prevention program for children TAPP-C.

Fire Equipment and Firefighter Safety Considerations.

- purchasing firefighting equipment
- purchasing personal protective equipment, and
- purchasing infrared cameras and other new safety technology.