

Subject: Fire Service Grant Proposal

Department: Community Services

Division: Orangeville Fire

Report #: CMS-OF-2021-008

Meeting Date: 2021-04-12

Recommendations

That report # CMS-OF-2021-008 – dated April 12, 2021 be received;

AND THAT Council approve an Ontario Fire Grant application for the development of a modular container training system;

AND THAT Council authorize staff to finalize and execute the transfer payment agreement with the Province of Ontario.

Background and Analysis

On January 13, 2021 the Ontario Fire Marshal announced that the Province of Ontario was decommissioning the Ontario Fire College as of March 31, 2021. As a result of this closure the province has initiated a new funding program to assist local fire services with their training programs.

On March 11, 2021 the Solicitor General Sylvia Jones announced that the Ontario government is providing \$5 million in funding to help municipal fire services to deal with the impacts. Each municipal fire service would be eligible to receive a minimum base funding grant of \$4500 plus additional funding based on population per capita. The new funds can be tailored to the unique needs of various municipal fire operations.

Applications were distributed to all municipalities on March 11, 2021 with a deadline for submissions on March 19, 2021. Based on the funding framework the Town of Orangeville is eligible to receive up to \$11,700 as part of the grant program. In order to meet timelines to receive funds, the Ontario Fire Marshal directed that the application be submitted by a representative of the municipality in principle, pending formal approval from respective Council's.

In consultation with senior fire staff, it was agreed that Orangeville Fire would submit a proposal for the construction of a modular training structure utilizing shipping containers to form a functional training ground. The Town of Orangeville 2015 Fire Master Plan, recommended that:

The proposed building site of a new station include a training facility and training props for the firefighters to practice their skills and complete their training. The modular flexibility of this style of container would allow the fire suppression team to utilize the new training space at the current location and it would get relocated to the new site in the future. The use of this type of modular training has become a standard for fire services around the world.

This new modular training design will allow Orangeville Fire to train in search and rescue, roof operations, ventilation practices, firefighter survival techniques, hose line advancement etc.. The containers will ensure that current firefighters and recruits are trained to the NFPA standards within the timelines required. Conditions of the grant also included that the funds must be spent by August 1, 2021.

Orangeville Fire proposal includes:

- (4) Shipping containers
- Container fasteners, wood for interior finishes and window and door hardware.

Total cost quoted \$11,500 + applicable taxes

Orangeville Fire will continue to support the regional training centers where required, however with the addition of the modular multi floor training containers, it enhances the Town's investment in firefighter safety by providing real fire/rescue scenarios and challenges. This addition will allow Orangeville Fire to continue the deliver programs with minimal impact on future operational budgets.

Strategic Alignment

Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan

Priority Area: Community Stewardship

Objective: Safe & Protected

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Social Wellbeing

Strategy: Continue to work with the Province of Ontario and Regional Training Centres to maintain and enhance Public Safety, Fire and Emergency Services.

Notice Provisions

Not applicable.

Financial Impact

The Grant of \$11,700.00 will cover the majority of the costs required, and any additional costs can be allocated within the Orangeville Fire Training Budget.

Respectfully submitted

Ray Osmond
Manager, Community Services

Prepared by

Ronald Morden
Fire Chief, Fire Services

Attachment(s): 1. Photograph Example of a Shipping Container Training Centre