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**Subject: Telecommunications Report**

**Department: Corporate Services**

**Division: IT**

**Report #: CPS-2022-062**

**Meeting Date: 2022-08-08**

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## Recommendations

**That report CPS-2022-062 Telecommunications Report, be received;**

**And that staff be authorized to pursue grant funding for initiatives related to upgrading the Town's telecommunication systems;**

## Background and Analysis

In 2021, the Town of Orangeville received a provincial modernization grant to review the municipality's telecommunications systems for current and future state needs. The review, conducted by Black Castle Networks (BCN), included a current state assessment of existing telecom assets such as fiber network, wireless towers, radio systems, and services currently utilized.

It also focused on identifying opportunities to leverage next generation networks that would create efficiencies and future proof the Town's system infrastructure, such as public sector broadband network, 5g etc.

In October 2021, the Town initiated the first stakeholder meetings, inviting the Broader Public Sector groups, such as Fire Departments, County of Dufferin, Town of Caledon, Upper Grand School Board.

These stakeholder sessions identified gaps in the current Land Mobile Radio systems (LMR). The LMR systems are a critical component of emergency services communications and are relied on during emergency scenarios that represent a significant risk to life, property, and disasters-based events.

In addition to identifying future ready opportunities for the Town's infrastructure, the report detailed specific risks/deficiencies in the current state that are high priority. It indicates that there are numerous government grants along with private/public

partnership opportunities that can assist in the funding / cost sharing of these projects. These grants have been designed to help modernize radio and wireless 5G services for Municipalities across Canada's public safety network, due to aging infrastructure, and a significant shift from legacy radio systems to modern 5G radio technologies.

The Town does have funding available to initiate the upgrades to the wireless system, but acknowledges the broader upgrades require additional funding. As a result, staff are requesting authorization to apply for funding to remediate identified issues and improve system infrastructure more broadly. In the event staff are unsuccessful the requests will be brought forward in a future budget process.

The benefits to the Town focusing on its own robust telecommunications system are underscored by the recent events with Rogers Telecommunications. It is more relevant now than ever that the town ensures localized communications systems are capable of handling surges (increased loads when a situation occurs) and disasters events, from technological, environmental, or malicious intent.

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## **Strategic Alignment**

### **Orangeville Forward – Strategic Plan**

Priority Area: Municipal Service

Objective: Delivered with a focus on customer service • Effective and efficient • Respectful of cost and impact to the community

Priority Area: Strong Governance

Objectives: Financial responsibility • Positive relationships with other governments, agencies, and private sector

Sustainable Infrastructure

Objectives: Maintain current assets • Plan for growth • Support innovation

### **Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan**

Theme: Corporate and Fiscal

Strategy: Encourage and support collaboration to implement sustainability initiatives between municipal and community organizations, local Indigenous groups, conservation authority, colleges, and adjacent municipalities and the County.

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**Notice Provisions**

N/A

**Financial Impact**

Orangeville has budgeted \$900,000 to the project in 2022 via two separate Land Mobile Radio projects. Given the current market situation, any additional funding required will be brought forward in a future funding request and more information will be available upon the completion of the next project phase (radio frequency survey).

The Town also will request grant funding and explore private/public partnerships on the broader systems to reduce additional funding and develop a safe and resilient emergency communication system.

Respectfully submitted

Andrea McKinney  
General Manager, Corporate Services

Reviewed by

Jason Hall  
Manager, Information Technology

Jason Hall,  
IT Manager, Information Technology

**Attachment(s):** 1. Telecom Presentation

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Telecommunications Report - CPS-2022-062.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 28, 2022

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Andrea McKinney

Nandini Syed

**No Signature - Task assigned to Raymond Osmond was completed by delegate  
Andrea McKinney**

Raymond Osmond