Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - April 23, 2003

REPORTS

Minute No. 230 Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear Response Teams
File PE-1 (Vol. 4)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation that the City of Winnipeg enter into discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding the establishment of Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear (CBRN) Response Teams.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
That the administrative recommendation be concurred in.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

RE: Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear Response Teams

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT DATE: April 7, 2003

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the City of Winnipeg enter into discussions with the Province of Manitoba regarding the establishment of Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear (CBRN) Response Teams.

REPORT SUMMARY:

Key Issues: Investigative discussion around the formation of Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear Response Teams, with the Province of Manitoba.

Implications of the Recommendation(s): Discussion may lead to proposals for Council review and approval, regarding CBRN Response Teams.

General implications:
X **None**
? **For the organization overall &/or for other departments**
? **For the community and/or organizations external to the City**
? **Involves a multi-year contract**
Comment(s):

Policy implications:
X **No**
? **Yes** **Comment(s):**

Environmental implications:
X **No**
? **Yes** **Comment(s):**

Human Resources implications:
X **No**
? **Yes** **Comment(s):**

Financial implications:

? **Within approved current and/or capital budget**

? **Current and/or capital budget adjustment required**

Comment(s): There is no financial impact associated with this report.

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

Approval is required to enter into formal discussions with an outside agency, particularly different levels of government.

HISTORY:

Under Manitoba's Emergency Measures Act, local authorities are required to prepare and adopt emergency preparedness plans and programs. The Act authorizes local authorities to enter into mutual aid agreements or discussion with respect to the establishment, development and implementation of emergency plans and operations.

Following the 1997 flood, the City commissioned KPMG Consulting and they noted problems of inter-organizational coordination during flood response and recommended that the City work with emergency service partner organizations to clarify roles and responsibilities and develop a coordinated, community approach to local emergency management.

Emergency Plans are always in a state of review, but particular attention has been given to the City since the September 11th event. The City of Winnipeg has the skilled personnel to respond to a variety of events and does call upon the vast number of supporting provincial and federal departments to assist when required.

Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear (CBRN) risk around the world has been elevated to new highs. Such a risk requires a specialized strategic response by trained responders from various agencies and levels of government, under a unified command.

DISCUSSION:

On January 7, 2003 the Emergency Measures Organization wrote to the Chief Administrative Officer regarding the establishment of teams for emergency response in Chemical / Biological / Radiological / Nuclear (CBRN) situations.

As part of its Budget 2001 enhancements for national security, the Government of Canada has announced the availability of equipment and training for first responders. The Federal Government will deliver specialized training on CBRN response, through its facilities in Ottawa and in Suffield, Alberta.

A representative from each of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, Winnipeg Police Service and Emergency Preparedness Program are members of a steering committee. Provincial and Federal Committee members will include representatives from: Office of the Fire Commissioner, Emergency Measures Organization, Conservation – Environment Sector, Department National Defense, Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The committee is developing a concept for one or more teams, plus a back-up team, to be fully trained and equipped for CBRN response.

The concept involves the team(s) having the capability to respond to CBRN situations throughout the province. Team(s) will be multi-disciplinary, representing hazardous materials responders, police services, fire and rescue, emergency medial services, and unified incident command.

CBRN is unlike the "NORMAL" Emergency; response will be across municipal boundary and will require assistance from various agencies in all levels of government.

The City of Winnipeg is best served by partnering with the Province of Manitoba, Emergency Measures Organization and Office of the Fire Commissioner. Such partnerships will ensure our first responders (Police and Fire Paramedic) receive CBRN Level I training at minimum and future training updates.

It is clearly evident the City of Winnipeg's capabilities in most first responder areas make it a prime part of CBRN Response Team membership.

The aim of the City's Emergency Preparedness Program and 'Emergency Plan' is to protect the health and safety of its inhabitants, and maintain and restore essential services. Entering into discussions with the Province of Manitoba relating to CBRN Response Teams will add significant capabilities and resources to the emergency response here in Winnipeg. The same benefits will be realized in all emergency programs within all levels of government across the province.

A coordinated emergency response promotes faster recovery, reduced personal suffering and community disruption, and lower emergency costs.

Financial Impact Statement:

Project Name: CBRN Report

Date: February 7, 2003 First Year of Program

	0	1	2	3	4
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required					
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs					
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal					
Debt - External					
Grants (Enter Description Here)					
Reserves, Equity, Surplus					
Other - Enter Description Here					
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$0.00				
Total Additional Debt Required	$0.00				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs					
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery					
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$0.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts					
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$0.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Chief Financial Officer

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH, AND CONCURRENCY BY:

Bob Gannon, Chief Emergency Coordinator
Wes Shoemaker, Fire Paramedic Service Chief
Bruce Foster, Winnipeg Police Service Inspector
Randy Hull, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Prepared by: Randy Hull, 986-4691
File No.