Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 11, 2018

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – July 3, 2018

Item No. 1 Reallocation of Capital Funds for Purchase of a Mobile Chemical Analysis Spectrometer for Emergency Assessment of Unidentified Powders and Liquids

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the following to Council:

1. That $150,000 of 2016 Capital funds authorized for hazardous material suits be reallocated for the procurement of a portable hazardous substance analysis tool.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – July 3, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 3, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: **Reallocation of Capital Funds for Purchase of a Mobile Chemical Analysis Spectrometer for Emergency Assessment of Unidentified Powders and Liquids**

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Hathout	J. Lane	M. Ruta	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Portable spectrometer for chemical and liquid analysis has become an invaluable fire department tool for hazardous materials response management. The majority of major Canadian fire departments have them as part of their emergency response mandate. The need has become even more critical in light of the threat fentanyl exposure presents. Concerns about fentanyl exposure have also increased the frequency of calls for emergency responders to attend to unknown substance calls.

Currently neither the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) nor Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) has such a device. Without being able to quickly assess the risk posed by an unknown chemical, fire and police crews are required to treat these substances as potential threats until more information can be obtained from the public and containment or clean-up is complete. This process can take hours and creates disruption.

The purpose of this report is to request authority to use $150,000 of the $445,000 designated for hazardous material suits in 2016 towards the purchase of a rugged portable spectrometer for quick chemical profiling of unknown liquids and powders. The ability to repurpose these funds is due to recycling efforts by WFPS maintenance team who were able to reuse accessories of the old hazardous material suits to cut down on the costs of the replacement suits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That $150,000 of 2016 Capital funds authorized for hazardous material suits be reallocated for the procurement of a portable hazardous substance analysis tool.

2. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to establish capital projects, expend approved capital budgets for purposes other than that which are outlined in the Council approved capital budget, and consolidate Capital Project and/or Program Budgets.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

When responding to calls for an unknown substance the WFPS will be able to rapidly ascertain the chemical make-up of a liquid or chemical substance. If the substance is determined to be inert, immediate clean-up can be arranged, thereby minimizing public disruption and allowing emergency responder stand down. If the substance is found to be hazardous, the impact can be immediately mitigated using appropriate measures.

The immediacy of the assessment will save approximately four hours of fire crew time each week, as well as police services, and more importantly reduce disruption and hazard to the public.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The scope of the WFPS Hazardous Materials (HazMat) team includes responding to chemical, biologic, radiologic and nuclear threats. Due to the complex and diverse nature of this demand the WFPS HazMat team is required to invest in the appropriate technology to mitigate risk to the public.

The department has monitored developments in portable chemical analysis tools and considered the experiences to date from emergency services across the country using these devices for many years. Coupled with the recent rise of fentanyl and other highly toxic drugs in public circulation, it has been determined that the technology is now required in Winnipeg. The technology is reliable and robust and can help reduce risk and exposure to staff and members of the public.

The HazMat team conducted a brief trial of this type of device in 2017. The result was collective agreement that such a tool is the most valuable investment the WFPS could make.
The need for this tool was reinforced by a recent consultant report conducted on the WFPS that identified the lack of a spectrometer as a deficit in the service.

The request for $150,000 is based on market research. There are two major vendors of such devices. Both vendors can provide two detection devices and supporting software for under $150,000.

On March 22, 2016 Council approved the Capital budget which included funds for Equipment Obsolescence, $445,000 of which was identified for hazardous material suits. The Public Service is requesting that $150,000 of the approved funds for the hazardous material suits be reallocated towards the purchase of a rugged portable spectrometer for quick chemical profiling of unknown liquids and powders. The ability to repurpose these funds is due to recycling efforts by WFPS maintenance team who were able to reuse accessories of the old hazardous material

suits to cut down on the costs of the replacement suits.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: May 24, 2018

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2016**

Reallocation of Capital Funds for Purchase of a Mobile Chemical Analysis Spectrometer for Emergency Assessment of Unidentified Powders and Liquids

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ 184,000	$ -	$ 210,000	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	445,000	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ (261,000)	$ -	$ 210,000	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Cash to capital	(445,000)	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ (445,000)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ (51,000)				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Capital approval for HazMat suits was obtained in 2016 totalling $445k. The bulk of the purchase was conducted in 2016 ($184k) with some residual purchases now occuring in 2018 ($60k). The remaining funds ($201k) are now surplus to the original requirements through cost saving measures. The department is therefore seeking approval to divert some of these funds ($150k) to purchase a mass spectrometer in 2018 as noted in the report.

original signed by

John Hall FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller, Fire Paramedic Service

CONSULTATION

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01-2b Safety and Security- Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Fire Paramedic Service
Division: Operations
Prepared by: Linda Hathout
Date: May 24, 2018
File No: