Executive Policy Committee - Reports

Item No. 1 Over Expenditure Authorization relating to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service 2020 Operating Budget for the purchase of Non-Medical Masks

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and adopted the following:

1. That approval be given to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to over-expend its 2020 operating budget for the purchase of non-medical masks and a public awareness campaign for the following:

    A. Up to $75,000 for all City employees and costs relating to the public awareness campaign; and

    B. Up to $250,000 for users of Winnipeg Transit, Transit Plus and City facilities.

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

Executive Policy Committee - Reports

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be adopted.

His Worship Mayor Bowman called for the yeas and nays which were as follows:

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Klein, Lukes, Mayes, Nason, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 16

Nay: Councillors 0

and the motion for the adoption of the item was declared carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: **Over Expenditure Authorization relating to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service 2020 Operating Budget for the purchase of Non-Medical Masks**

Critical Path: Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Gilmour J. Shaw	J. Lane	P. Olafson, Interim CFO	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COVID-19 is continuing to spread in Winnipeg, and to date, the City of Winnipeg has been following the guidance of the Manitoba Health and the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin in responding to this pandemic.

Manitoba Health and Dr. Roussin have stated that the use of non-medical face masks is one tool members of the public can use to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but to date, have not required the use of non-medical face masks by the public inside the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg.

Under the guidance of The City of Winnipeg's Office of Emergency Management, and by virtue of his responsibility for the management and supervision of employees of the City and for the supervision of the operations of departments as well as his responsibility for "the care, control and maintenance of all real and personal property, improvements or works owned or controlled by the City", the Interim Chief Administrative Officer has ordered that beginning Saturday, August 29, 2020 the use of face masks be required for everyone who is entering a city-operated facility, including City employees. Under his authority under the Public Transit By-law, the Director of Winnipeg Transit has made a similar rule for all Winnipeg Transit passengers and drivers including Transit Plus.

The use of masks will offer some protection to the wearer and significant protection to everyone around the wearer. Non-medical face masks are increasingly being mandated at private facilities across the City and are increasingly recognized as one more tool to provide protection against the spread of COVID-19 in community settings.

The Public Service is requesting an over expenditure of $325,000 for the purchase of non-medical masks for distribution to members of the public who are using Winnipeg Transit, Transit Plus or City operated facilities, as well as all City employees, who do not have their own. It is

expected that the Public Service will provide masks for approximately two weeks, or until such time as supplies have been exhausted, to allow citizens to become familiar with the requirement. Included in the over-expenditure are costs relating to a public awareness campaign.

As the expense of masks is related to a public health and safety concern, the Public Service will be requesting the Province of Manitoba to provide funding to reimburse this additional expense.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That approval be given to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to over-expend its 2020 operating budget for the purchase of non-medical masks and a public awareness campaign for the following:

    A. Up to $75,000 for all City employees and costs relating to the public awareness campaign; and
    B. Up to $250,000 for users of Winnipeg Transit, Transit Plus and City facilities.

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 for additional funding for COVID-19 protection measures to ensure the safety and protection of City employees and citizens utilizing city operated facilities, Transit and Transit Plus.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The approval of the recommendations will allow the Public Service to immediately purchase reusable non-medical face masks for City of Winnipeg employees and disposable non-medical face masks for members of the Public using Transit, Transit Plus or city operated facilities. The Public Service will implement the distribution of the masks to City staff and the public.

Impacts on delivery of services
There will be an increase in workload on City employees to ensure the availability and delivery of masks for public use, both at front counter sites when distributing masks and with ordering, tracking inventory, and delivery of the masks.

Masks Available to the Public
In order to ensure that members of the public who do not have the ability to bring their own masks while using Winnipeg Transit, Transit Plus or City facilities, the City intends to provide masks to the public at strategic locations throughout Winnipeg for a limited time frame. It is expected that the Public Service will provide masks for approximately two weeks, or until such time as supplies have been exhausted, to allow citizens to become familiar with the requirement.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Situation Update

COVID 19 cases continue to rise globally, nationally and locally in Winnipeg. After a period of low case volumes, Winnipeg has seen a continuous increase in case numbers throughout July and August. Prior to August 3 there were a total of 255 cases in the Winnipeg Health Region since the beginning of the pandemic in March. Between August 3 and August 25 Winnipeg has seen an increase of 114 cases, with 31% of cumulative cases resulting in the last 22 days alone. Our average daily new case count has increased from 2 at the beginning of August to 7 for the week of August 19-25.

In the same time period, the provincial cumulative total case numbers rose from 443 on August 3 to 1043 on August 25. The daily average of new cases for the province has risen from 17 the week of August 3 to 40 the week of August 19-25. Given Winnipeg is the largest City in Manitoba and acts as a hub for many of the province's industries and activities, it is unreasonable to expect Winnipeg will not be affected by the rise in cases throughout the province.

Manitoba Public Health estimates that up to 20% of current cases are non-epidemiological linked, indicating community transmission is present in both Winnipeg and throughout the province.

The rate of new cases is increasing at levels not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. Without the lockdown measures and social distancing that was in effect for March and April, if there is no change to behavior or activities the case numbers can be expected to continue this growth trend.

Background on Masks

There is growing evidence of the efficacy of non-medical face masks in reducing the spread of COVID-19. While not a replacement for social distancing or strong hand hygiene, the use of non-medical face masks has been encouraged by provincial, national, and global health organizations as one tool to assist in the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

The World Health Organization has stated that "If there is widespread community transmission, and especially in settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, governments should encourage the general public to wear a fabric mask". [1]

The Public Health Agency of Canada has stated that "When worn properly, a person wearing a non-medical mask or face covering may reduce the spread of their respiratory droplets"[2]

[1] https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-on-covid-19-and-masks

[2] https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment/medical-masks-respirators/face-covering-classifications-notice.html

Provincial Requirements

The Province of Manitoba has implemented the Pandemic Response System to communicate level of risk and restrictions for Manitobans. The current provincial level of Yellow or Caution provides guidance including wearing a non-medical face mask in indoor settings where social distancing is not possible.[3] In the Prairie Mountain Health Region, currently under the Orange level of risk, non-medical masks were required in all indoor public spaces and outdoor areas in gatherings larger than 10, as of August 24.

As part of the return to schools in September, Manitoba Public Health is mandating the use of masks for all students in grades 4-12 when physical distancing is not possible. They are also requiring the use of the non-medical face masks for all students who are using school buses as transportation to and from school.

On August 24, the Province announced that non-medical masks will be required for all visitors to health facilities as of September 1.

Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) and Director of Transit's Orders requiring mask use

On August 28, 2020 the CAO ordered that, effective Saturday, August 29, masks must be worn by members of the public and City employees in all City facilities. A similar rule, also effective on August 29, was issued by the Director of Winnipeg Transit and applies to drivers and passengers on Winnipeg Transit vehicles, including Transit Plus vehicles.

Face masks must be worn over the mouth, nose, and chin at all times with the following exemptions, including but not limited to;

- Persons under the age of five
- Persons who are unable to place, use, or remove a mask without assistance
- Persons unable to wear a mask due to a mental or physical concern or limitation, or protected ground under the Manitoba Human Rights Code
- Persons consuming food or drink in designated seating areas or as part of religious or spiritual ceremony
- Persons engaged in water activities or physical exercise
- Persons providing care or assistance to a person with a disability where a mask would hinder that caregiving or assistance
- Persons engaging in tasks or services that require the temporary removal of a mask (e.g. in order to don a respirator)
- City employees who are working alone in fully-enclosed space, such as an office with the door closed or travelling alone in a City vehicle, as well as employees working in a cubicle and separated from others by a partition and at least two meters
- Emergency services personnel, including police officers, fire fighters and paramedics, while on duty as they already follow stringent additional health and safety internal department protocols

The CAO's Order respecting the requirement that masks be worn in City facilities is authorized by section 26 of the City Organization By-law, which gives the CAO responsibility "for the

[3] https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html

management and supervision of employees of the City" and for the supervision of the operations of departments. In addition, the CAO is given responsibility in section 26 for "the care, control and maintenance of all real and personal property, improvements or works owned or controlled by the City".

The Director of Transit has authority under the Public Transit By-law to "take actions and implement measures that are not in conflict with this By-law and are consistent with its purpose in order to … ensure or enhance the safety and enjoyment of users of the services provided by Winnipeg Transit" and to "make rules that are not in conflict with this By-law and are consistent with its purpose, respecting … the activity and behaviour of individuals within transit property…". One of the purposes of the Public Transit By-law is to "regulate the conduct and activities of people using the transit system operated by Winnipeg Transit in order to promote … the safety, well-being, comfort and convenience of passengers and employees on the transit system".

A public awareness campaign will be launched to ensure the public is educated on the requirements of non-medical mask use.

Public Mask Use

A public awareness campaign about mask requirements in City operated facilities encouraging all residents or visitors to bring their own non-medical face masks will be launched immediately. This will be funded by an additional budget of up to $25,000 included in recommendation 1.A . Some residents may not be able to provide their own non-medical face masks, and if that is the case, the recommendations in this report will allow the City to make non-medical face masks available to them. Disposable, one time use non-medical face masks are the recommended option for this use. Non-medical face masks will be made available for residents to pick up at strategic locations throughout Winnipeg for a limited time frame. It is expected that the Public Service will provide masks for approximately two weeks, or until such time as supplies have been exhausted, to allow citizens to become familiar with the requirement. Transit riders will be able to pick up non-medical face masks for their use at either transit kiosks or the previously listed City sites. It is expected that up to $250,000 may be required to purchase enough masks for users of Transit, Transit Plus and city operated facilities.

City Employee Mask Use

The City is requiring use of face masks by City employees in all indoor City operated facilities and vehicles (including Transit and Transit Plus vehicles) effective August 29, 2020. As this is a workplace requirement, the City is required to provide masks to all employees. Reusable non-medical face masks should be provided to all employees at a minimum of 5 per person allowing for washing and drying time. It is expected that up to $50,000 may be required to purchase enough masks for city employees.

On April 3, 2020, Council approved that in the event the General Revenue Fund reports a deficit at year-end, the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund transfer to the General Revenue Fund, the amount required to avoid a deficit in the General Revenue Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: August 26, 2020

Project Name:

First Year of Program **2020**

Over Expenditure Authorization relating to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Operating Budget for the purchase of Non-Medical Masks

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 325,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 325,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ 325,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

The costs associated with the provision of non-medical masks and a public awareness campaign was not provided for within the departments 2020 approved budget. These costs therefore require approval for over-expenditure.

original signed by
John Hall FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller
Fire Paramedic Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Legal Services
Winnipeg Transit Department
Human Resource Services Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of Emergency Management
Division: Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Prepared by: Lisa Gilmour & Jay Shaw
Date: August 27, 2020