Minute No. 302
Report – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2021

Item No. 17 Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the receipt of funding from the Province of Manitoba (Municipal Relations) Fire Protection Grant Program by the City be approved for projects as follows:

   A. Structural Turnout Gear Hygiene Program Enhancement - $56,000.00

   B. Thermal Imaging Cameras - $58,310.47

   C. Heavy Rescue (big rig) Equipment - $150,000.00

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements with the Province of Manitoba, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 17, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Lane	J. Lane	C. Kloepfer	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) applied for funding under the Fire Protection Grant Program announced by the Government of Manitoba in October 2020. The Government of Manitoba has approved funding to the City for the following projects:

Structural Turnout Gear Hygiene Program Enhancement	$ 56,000.00
Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC)	$ 58,310.47
Heavy Rescue (big rig) Equipment	$150,000.00

In order to receive the approved funding, the City is required to enter into a fire protection grant program contribution agreement with the Government of Manitoba for each project by March 31, 2021. No additional funds are required by the City as the Public Service will only utilize the grant funds for the projects identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the receipt of funding from the Province of Manitoba (Municipal Relations) Fire Protection Grant Program by the City be approved for projects as follows:

   A. Structural Turnout Gear Hygiene Program Enhancement - $56,000.00
   B. Thermal Imaging Cameras - $58,310.47
   C. Heavy Rescue (big rig) Equipment - $150,000.00

2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements with the Province of Manitoba, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing (the “Ancillary Agreements”).

3. That the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

4. 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 enter into the proposed grant program contribution agreements with the Government of Manitoba.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the City receives approval to enter into the grant program contribution agreements, the Government of Manitoba will provide funding to WFPS to support the following projects that will improve fire protection and emergency response for the citizens of Winnipeg.

Structural Turnout Gear Hygiene Program Enhancement	$ 56,000.00
Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC)	$ 58,310.47
Heavy Rescue (big rig) Equipment	$150,000.00

Should the grant program contribution agreements not be approved by March 31, 2021 the funds will no longer be available as the Government of Manitoba has advised that the funding must be provided prior to their fiscal year end of March 31.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In October 2020 the Manitoba government created a one-time, $5-million fund to provide fire protection grants to support fire protection and emergency response across the province. The Fire Protection Grant was open to municipalities and Northern Affairs communities to support projects or activities that improve fire protection or emergency response in those communities. Eligible fire protection projects included items such as preparedness planning, training and safety equipment.

The WFPS submitted seven proposals. The following three have been approved by the Government of Manitoba and require grant program contribution agreements in order to receive the funding.

1. **Structural Turnout Gear Hygiene Program Enhancement**
   The WFPS is working to enhance its structural turnout gear hygiene cleaning and maintenance program to improve firefighter health and safety. The program includes the development of a centralized, hygienic cleaning facility at the WFPS facility located at 2546 McPhillips Street. This program will manage all turnout gear cleaning on behalf of members

of the department thereby eliminating post incident member and station contaminant exposure. This expanded capacity is required to manage the frequency of washing based on the Service's volume of fire incidents. The full slate of extractors with the ozone system is integral to provision of appropriate disinfection of personal protective equipment (PPE) to eliminate bacteria, germs, carcinogens and of note in the current environment, viruses and other pathogens.

The WFPS request for funding in the amount of $56,000 for two turnout gear washing machines/extractors and an ozone sanitizing system for this project was approved by the Government of Manitoba.

This grant approval will fund the creation of a centralized washing area as part of this program. There are no additional operating funds required to implement the centralized program, although some changes in how the operating budget is spent will be required during 2021.

2. Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC)

TICs are handheld devices that render infrared radiation as visible light, allowing firefighters to see areas of heat through smoke, darkness, or heat-permeable barriers. TICs increase fire protection capacity by allowing firefighters to see the heat signature of victims even if they are obscured, search for victims outdoors, find the seat of a structure fire, spot smoldering fires inside a wall, or detect overheating electrical wiring.
WFPS needs ten additional TICs for ladder crews and district chiefs to enhance fire response throughout Winnipeg and the surrounding region. While TICs have been used by firefighters in engine crews for many years there has never been enough for ladder crews and district chiefs. Ladders crews will greatly benefit from these devices and the aerial vantage point will improve overall fire response. District Chiefs need TICs to conduct fire size-up and risk assessments.

The WFPS requested $100,000 to purchase ten TICs. $58,310.47 was approved by the Government of Manitoba.

WFPS is replacing 'existing' TICs within the approved Equipment Obsolescence program. The new grant funding is to purchase 'additional' TICs for the ladder trucks and district chiefs. The number of TICs purchased will be aligned to stay within the grant funding provided.

3. Heavy Rescue (big rig) Equipment

The WFPS has very limited capacity to effect vehicle rescues involving large vehicles such as semi-trailer trucks, heavy construction equipment, trains etc. If a semi-trailer or any heavy equipment rolls over, the current response by WFPS is to use equipment that is rated for light vehicle lifting and cutting. This limits the type of rescue possible, making it impossible to lift a heavy vehicle off another vehicle, or brace a heavy vehicle to extract injured parties. In other cases, it delays how quickly responders can get to injured parties because they need to use multiple bracings with less lift capacity.

When responding to a vehicle rescue, time is of the essence. When firefighters are required to use equipment not fit-for-purpose it means they themselves face risks. While rescuers are trained to use lift, bracing and cutting equipment, it is hard to quickly determine when a situation exceeds the maximum load capacity. With heavy equipment or semi-trailers, the weight frequently exceeds the capacity of the rescue equipment. If this equipment is used and fails, the consequence can be delays to the rescue or worse, additional injuries to the individuals being rescued or the rescuers.

The WFPS request for funding in the amount of $150,000 for the purchase of equipment including struts, lifting bags, large Jaws of Life, and other related equipment such as straps was approved by the Government of Manitoba.

On February 26, 2021 WFPS was advised via letter from the Minister of Municipal Relations that these applications had been approved and that funding would be provided in the near future. On March 2, 2021 WFPS received the grant program contribution agreements requesting that they be signed as soon as possible.

Approval to enter into these grant program contribution agreements is required by March 31, 2021 as the Government of Manitoba has advised that the funding must be provided prior to their fiscal year end of March 31.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: March 15, 2021

Project Name:

Fire Protection Grant Program Contribution Agreements

First Year of Program **2021**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
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	$ 264,310	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	264,310	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

By entering into the three agreements set out in this report the City of Winnipeg will receive additional grant funding to purchase firefighting equipment as noted.

original signed by

John Hall, FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller
Fire Paramedic Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Legal Services (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Fire Paramedic Service
Division: Executive
Prepared by: John Lane, Fire & Paramedic Chief
Date: March 15, 2021
File No: