Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 18, 2024

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – June 3, 2024

Item No. 1 Addition of 24 New Firefighter Positions Funded by Provincial Grant

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That approval be granted to add 24 FTE firefighter positions to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service's ongoing staff establishment. These positions will be fully funded by the commitment provided by the Province of Manitoba.

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 Community Services – June 3, 2024

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

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

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 3, 2024, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Addition of 24 New Firefighter Positions Funded by Provincial Grant

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Schmidt	C. Schmidt	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Manitoba has committed to funding staffing for the new Fire Paramedic station in Waverley West. This station will help provide fire response coverage across the South-west Winnipeg area.

The Fire Paramedic Service seeks to recruit 24 full time equivalent (FTE) firefighter positions to staff this new station (station #15).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That approval be granted to add 24 FTE firefighter positions to the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service's ongoing staff establishment. These positions will be fully funded by the commitment provided by the Province of Manitoba.

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 add new positions incremental to those included in the annual budget.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The addition of 24 firefighter positions will allow the department to provide fire response services to the citizens in the South-west Winnipeg area.

There are no financial implications from the recommendations as these positions will be fully funded by the Province of Manitoba.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Province of Manitoba, through a letter to the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 21, 2024, has committed to funding the staffing of the new Fire Paramedic station in Waverley West to support fire protection across the South-west Winnipeg area.

This funding commitment is initially set at $3.4 million with a further commitment to establish a basis for the funding of future salary settlements.

The City will use this new funding to provide the required staff resourcing in the Waverly West station to meet fire response capability, up to the approved funding amount. This includes the addition of the following positions:

- 4 Firefighters
- 16 Firefighter Primary Care Paramedics
- 4 Captains

This would provide six full time equivalent positions per platoon to operate the apparatus located at the Waverley West station 24/7 throughout the year.

The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) had previously planned to redeploy the apparatus and staff from the old Windsor Park station to staff the new Waverley West station. This was possible as a result of the consolidation of the Windsor Park and Marion Street stations as recommended in the WFPS Master Plan.

The consolidated Windsor Park station is under construction with the apparatus and staff now located close to the Waverley West area in anticipation of the new modular station coming online later in 2024.

With the additional funding to support new staff for this area, the WFPS will redeploy these existing positions to fire investigation, community risk reduction, and fire training in accordance with the Master Plan. These positions will play a key role in both supporting the new positions and in providing fire protection services across the area.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** May 16, 2024

Project Name: **First Year of Program** **2024**

Addition of new firefighter positions funded by provincial grant

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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	1,700,000	3,502,000	3,607,060	3,715,272	$ 3,826,730
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	1,700,000	3,502,000	3,607,060	3,715,272	3,826,730
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts					
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

The Province of Manitoba has committed to funding additional fire resources in South-West Winnipeg. In addition the Province has agreed to discuss a basis for funding wage settlements in future years. This FIS presents the original commitment of $3.4m pro-rated to an estimated July 1st, 2024 recruitment, for the first year, and then providing an estimated 3% salary increase thereafter for illustration purposes. Actual salary increases will be determined by collective bargaining.

John Hall FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller
Fire Paramedic Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Fire Paramedic Service
Division: Executive
Prepared by: Christian Schmidt, Fire and Paramedic Chief
Date: May 16, 2024
File No: N/A

Attachments: N/A