Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – June 9, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Disposal of Expired Structural Firefighting Ensembles (Turnout Gear) and Educational Materials

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the City enter into a donation agreement effective until May 1, 2036, with Firefighters Without Borders Canada for the donation of WFPS' used structural firefighting ensembles (turnout gear) and surplus non-confidential fire department educational materials for distribution to fire departments, emergency services organizations, and fire fighters in countries or regions that have a demonstrated need.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the donation agreement with Firefighters Without Borders Canada and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services/City Solicitor, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by Director of Legal Services/City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Disposal of Expired Structural Firefighting Ensembles (Turnout Gear) and Educational Materials

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) turnout gear cannot be used after 10 years. They are considered beyond their useful life. This follows National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1850.

Examples of turnout gear include:

- boots
- helmets
- gloves
- coveralls

The Public Service recommends that expired turnout gear be donated through Firefighters Without Borders Canada. The Public Service also recommends donating surplus educational materials. These materials are out of date and have been replaced by newer versions. However, they still support general fire department education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City enter into a donation agreement effective until May 1, 2036, with Firefighters Without Borders Canada for the donation of WFPS' used structural firefighting ensembles (turnout gear) and surplus non-confidential fire department educational materials for distribution to fire departments, emergency services organizations, and fire fighters in countries or regions that have a demonstrated need.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the donation agreement with Firefighters Without Borders Canada and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal

Services/City Solicitor, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by Director of Legal Services/City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

3. 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 donate expired structural firefighting ensembles and surplus educational materials through Firefighters Without Borders Canada, on an ongoing basis, without the solicitation of competitive offers.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no financial impact to the WFPS as this gear cannot be sold because it has exceeded its life cycle. Donating the equipment and surplus educational materials to fire departments and emergency services organizations in communities with demonstrated need, through Firefighters Without Borders Canada, will support general fire department education and training, and will ensure they have personal fire protection while diverting materials from landfill.

Firefighters Without Borders Canada will be required to sign a donation agreement to release and indemnify The City of Winnipeg, including its WFPS, from liability.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Previously, old structural firefighting ensembles (turnout gear) was often kept by individuals as spare gear or transferred to northern communities.

Recognizing the liabilities associated with that practice, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) has mandated that all turnout gear exceeding 10 years of age be returned to the WFPS Personal Protective Equipment Repair and Maintenance Branch, where it is cleaned, processed for disposal, and tracked through the inventory system to ensure proper return and disposal documentation.

It is recommended that the WFPS dispose of used structural firefighting ensembles (turnout gear) that is beyond its 10-year life cycle in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1850.

NFPA Standard 1850, Chapter 10 states:

Chapter 10 Retirement, Disposition, and Special Incident Procedure

10.1.2 Structural firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements shall be retired in accordance with 10.2.1 or 10.2.2, no more than 10 years from the date the ensembles or ensemble elements were manufactured.

10.1.8 Structural firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements and proximity firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements that are no longer of use to the organization for emergency operations service but are not contaminated, defective, or damaged shall be retired in accordance with 10.2.1 or 10.2.2.

10.2.2. Retired structural firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements and proximity firefighting ensembles and ensemble elements as determined in 10.1.8 shall be permitted to be used as follows:

(2) As determined by the organization

Further, the Public Service recommends also donating surplus educational materials. Where WFPS educational materials are no longer needed for departmental use, and do not contain confidential, proprietary, or security-sensitive information, they could be donated through Firefighters Without Borders Canada to support general fire department education and familiarization.

These materials may include training, reference, and instructional resources that are regularly updated as standards and editions change. Any materials donated would be limited to items that are outdated, expired, surplus to WFPS operational needs, and suitable for external distribution.

Firefighters Without Borders Canada is a not-for-profit corporation and a registered charity dedicated to assisting fire departments in need of specific skills, training or resources. Under B4.3(a) of the Purchasing Policy, a supply by the City (donation) may be made to a not-for-profit corporation without the solicitation of competitive offers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: May 01, 2026

Project Name:

Disposal of Expired Structural Fire Fighting Ensembles (Turnout Gear) and Educational Materials

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The turnout gear has no residual value as it has reached its viable working life. There are no costs associated with donating the items through the Firefighters Without Borders Canada program.

John Hall FCMA, CGMA
Financial Controller
Fire Paramedic Service

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services
- Purchasing, Corporate Finance

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

1.4 Integrated Knowledge and Resources
Coordinate inter-departmental systems, projects and resources, making the best use of internal and external expertise to better understand service needs, find the most appropriate solutions, optimize resources, and maximize community outcomes. ER, EP, HW, SE, CB

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The recommendations of this report align with Strategic Opportunity #6, Waste Reduction and Diversion, as it will divert materials from being landfilled.

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: Fire Rescue Academy
Prepared by: Jared Blair, Assistant Director Fire Rescue Academy
Date: May 1, 2026
File No: N/A
Attachments: N/A