



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Tourism and Culture Division

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 5, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	City of Hamilton Veterans Committee 2020 Budget Submission (PED19229) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Brydie Huffman (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4122
SUBMITTED BY:	Carrie Brooks-Joiner Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Hamilton Veterans Committee 2020 base budget be approved with an increase from \$30,000 to \$43,000, attached as Appendix 'A' to Report PED19229.
- (b) That a one-time budget allocation for 2020 of \$12,000, funded by the Hamilton Veterans Committee reserve, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For 2020, the Hamilton Veterans Committee (HVC) is requesting \$55,000 to coordinate various Veterans' commemorative services and events throughout the year. These events include but are not limited to nine Remembrance Day memorials across the City, the annual Garrison Parade, Decoration Day ceremonies and Youth Education initiatives.

The base budget of \$30,000 is no longer sufficient to meet the expectations of the public that these events be inclusive and that they are accessible for all Hamiltonians while abiding by public safety concerns regarding this type of event.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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Expenses to provide the high calibre of Remembrance Day Services have increased for both relatively simple components such as municipal wreaths, program printing, musicians, tents, and chairs and for complex components such as technical equipment rentals, enhanced sound systems, programming elements such as warbird "fly past" services and media streaming. These elements have become expected by citizens as part of Veterans services in Hamilton. In addition, some expenses are tied to vital health and safety requirements; security, road closures, traffic warning signs and fencing.

In May 2017, Council approved a revised mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee (HVC17-001) including maximizing youth engagement through projects and events. The HVC acted on this in 2018 and 2019 with Remembrance Day programming including youth-led community projects and Veteran speaking engagements. Decoration Day incorporated greatly expanded involvement from local cadet organizations supported by the HVC budget.

Working with the HVC, staff closely monitor the Advisory Committee budget to determine if future increases will be necessary as each year the HVC is asked to support an increasing number of Remembrance and Commemoration events throughout the City of Hamilton. (i.e.: busing for youths attending services of Remembrance, public art commemoration projects, video screens and ASL signers to make services accessible and the use of armoured vehicles for public safety). To meet these expectations in 2020, the HVC is asking to use their remaining reserve funds of \$12,000 and requesting an additional \$13,000 to be added to their base budget for 2020 and beyond.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Hamilton Veterans Committee is requesting their annual base budget of \$30,000 to be increased to \$55,000 using \$12,000 from the HVC Reserve for 2020 and \$13,000 from the tax levy for 2020 and beyond.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The City of Hamilton Veterans Committee was first appointed by the Council of The Corporation of the City of Hamilton in February 1972. At that time the responsibility of the Committee was to:

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- i) Act as liaison for the Veterans of the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Parks Board (re: Cenotaph); and the Hamilton Cemetery Board (re: Field of Honour, Woodland Cemetery);
- ii) Co-ordinate all parades in the City involving Veterans; and,
- iii) Deal with all other matters directly relating to or of concern to Veterans.

Since 2001, military remembrance and commemoration activities have included organizing the City of Hamilton Remembrance ceremonies in addition to assisting with the coordination of annual ceremonies in Ancaster, Dundas, Glanbrook, Stoney Creek and Waterdown. Other annual events include the Dieppe Memorial Ceremony and Decoration Day. The Committee and their staff liaison have most recently worked to include and promote the inclusion of youth in their events.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

- Hamilton Veterans Committee: The HVC Annual Advisory Committee Budget Submission is attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED19229.
- Financial Coordinator, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division, Corporate Services Department: Provided reserve balance for Hamilton Veterans Committee.
- Acting Manager, Finance and Administration, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division, Corporate Services Department

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

The rationale for the increase to the HVC’s annual base budget is based on:

- Increased attendance numbers at Remembrance Day services resulting in additional costs e.g. enhanced security, traffic management services,
- Addition of large video screens to make the services accessible to the public and active military members on parade as downtown construction projects have reduced the space permitted for events in Gore Park, and,
- In 2020 the Committee will return to hosting two services of Remembrance on November 10th and 11th to include active members of the Reserve forces who

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cannot attend if November 11th falls on a weekday. This will continue until 2028 when Remembrance Day will take place on a weekend again.

The citizens of Hamilton hold ever higher standards for the quality and inclusivity of veterans' memorial services to properly honour the sacrifices made past and present.

Without adequate funding provided by Council, these expectations cannot be met for these events that hold national historical significance.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report PED19229 – Hamilton Veterans Committee 2020 Budget Submission

BH:ro