



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Fire Department

TO:	Chair and Members Healthy and Safe Communities Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	March 25, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Provincial Fire Safety Grant (HSC21013) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	David Cunliffe (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3343
SUBMITTED BY:	Paul Johnson General Manger Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Fire Chief be authorized to accept and utilize all grant funds provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal 2020/2021 Fire Safety Grant as per Appendix “A” to Report HSC21013 and be granted the authority to execute contracts, agreements, and documents required to give effect thereto in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 11, 2021, correspondence was received from the Ontario Fire Marshal notifying the City of Hamilton that the Province of Ontario has announced a one-time \$5 M grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Hamilton is eligible to receive up to \$137,000 as part of the grant program.

In order to receive funds, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) requires that applications (attached as Appendix “B” to Report HSC21013) be submitted no later than 1700 hours on March 19, 2021. The Fire Marshal has recognized that given the tight timeframes it would be difficult to have Council provide formal approval prior to submission of the application, thus allowing the Fire Chief to submit and accept the grant in principle on behalf of the municipality, pending formal approval from Council.

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.

Once the grant applications are approved by the OFM, the Fire Marshal will provide the Fire Chief with a letter of intent. The OFM must allocate funds before March 31, 2021. All funds provided must be spent by August 1, 2021, and a report back to the Fire Marshal will be required by September 1, 2021 to outline how the grant was utilized at the department level.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The City of Hamilton is eligible to receive up to \$137,000.00 as part of the grant program. All funds provided must be spent by August 1, 2021.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the City of Hamilton was notified that it was eligible to receive up to \$137,000 as part of the 2020/2021 Fire Safety Grant through the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

N/A

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Since the start of the pandemic, Ontario's fire services have faced unprecedented challenges and concerns that were shared with the Fire Marshal. The COVID environment created restrictions and limitations relative to the fire service's abilities to continue to adequately train fire service members, to enter premises to conduct inspections and complete Fire Code enforcement and to promote fire safety. It is anticipated that this grant will support fire services through this period of uncertainty and allow opportunities to facilitate legislated training and support fire safety inspection programs to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code.

The grant is intended to provide fire departments with the flexibility to support two priority areas:

- Ongoing training needs including registration, administrative programming, technology upgrades and associated costs for attending as well for providing

services; and,

- Fire Code compliance and including technology, capital costs and training to ensure that fire services can meet the demand of this need at the local level.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

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

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A” to Report HSC21013: Office of the Fire Marshal 2020/2021 Fire Safety Grant Memo

Appendix “B” to Report HSC21013: Office of the Fire Marshal 2020/2021 Fire Safety Grant Application Form