



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Fire Department

TO:	Chair and Members Healthy and Safe Communities Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	November 4, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Standardization of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment for the Hamilton Fire Department (HSC21036) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Shawn De Jager (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3378 Dan Milovanovic (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3377
SUBMITTED BY:	Dave Cunliffe Chief, Hamilton Fire Department Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That Council approve the standardization of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment manufactured by MSA The Safety Company, pursuant to Procurement Policy #14 – Standardization, until December 31, 2031 and that the Fire Chief of the Hamilton Fire Department be authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute any required contract and any ancillary documents required to give effect thereto with MSA The Safety Company, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (b) That the Fire Chief of the Hamilton Fire Department, or his/her designate, be authorized to amend any Contracts executed and any ancillary documents as required if MSA The Safety Company undergoes a name change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The replacement of the Hamilton Fire Department (HFD) firefighting SCBA was approved via the 2021 Capital Budget process. This replacement program ensured that all current health and safety, updated legislative requirements and regulations along with operational requirements were met.

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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In November 2020, the City issued C5-11-20, a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for the Supply and Delivery of Complete SCBA Changeout for the Hamilton Fire Department. As part of the evaluation process for the RFP, an evaluation committee comprised of members from the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (Career and Volunteer) and Fire Suppression Section staff (Career and Volunteer) and the Training Division evaluated proposals and tested various makes and models of SCBA. The proposal submitted by A.J. Stone Company Ltd. (“AJ Stone”) included an SCBA model manufactured by MSA the Safety Company (“MSA”). AJ Stone’s proposal received the highest total evaluation score and on March 17, 2021, they were awarded the Contract for C5-11-20, to provide the complete replacement of the HFD SCBA program.

This replacement program included all new SCBA MSA Paks, MSA Face Pieces, MSA Cylinders, MSA Rapid Intervention Kits and all new MSA Confined Space Equipment along with extensive training to ensure all impacted members were ready to safely use this new SCBA equipment. This was completed in July 2021.

The new MSA SCBA Paks and Cylinders have an anticipated 15-year life cycle for use in front line emergency response setting.

In order to maintain one uniform make and model of SCBA units in service for HFD and for a long period of time, staff may have the need to procure additional SCBA units and related equipment or parts. Should these recommendations in this Report be approved, staff will conduct the procurement process in accordance with the Procurement Policy #14, which sets out requirements for standardization, and will require only MSA manufactured SCBA units and related equipment or parts.

The SCBA model and related equipment manufactured by MSA the Safety Company (“MSA”) is recommended for approval as a standardization pursuant to Policy #14 in order to strengthen HFD’s ability to meet the goals stated above, maintaining quality frontline fire equipment in order to prevent delays or non-compatible products from entering the system.

Additionally, this standardization process will support the employer’s requirements under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, R.S.O. c. 0.1. (*OHS Act*) to provide the necessary equipment, training and maintenance for the Hamilton Fire Department.

Prior to December 2031, the Hamilton Fire Department will again endeavour to perform due diligence by revisiting the marketplace and its operational practices and needs to determine whether to continue with the standardization of these items or go in another direction.

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Alternatives for Consideration – Not applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Report HSC21036 recommends MSA the Safety Company for standardization for the department’s SCBA Equipment. Historically Operating and Capital Budgets have been established to support the HFD’s SCBA Program and are expected to be maintained. It is forecasted that over the next ten years that the annualized program commitments would equal approximately \$110,000, funded from either the Operating or Capital budgets for this project.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: All contracts will be reviewed by Legal.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Firefighting and rescue operations are very dangerous activities which require reliance on proven equipment in some of the most arduous and time sensitive situations. In the case of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), legislation exists relative to the prescriptive care and maintenance of such devices. The replacement of the Hamilton Fire Department firefighting SCBA was approved via the 2021 Capital Budget process.

In November 2020, the City issued C5-11-20, a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for the Supply and Delivery of Complete SCBA Changeout for Hamilton Fire Department. AJ Stone’s proposal received the highest total evaluation score and on March 17, 2021, they were awarded the Contract for C5-11-20, to provide the complete replacement of the HFD SCBA program.

The successful replacement of all new SCBA Equipment to MSA SCBA equipment was completed in July 2021 and the HFD is now operationally using MSA G1 SCBA as part of its emergency response equipment.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The procurement of the SCBA units and this request to standardization is in accordance with the City of Hamilton Bylaw #20-205- Procurement Policy, Policy #5.4, Section 4.5.4 Request for Proposals and Policy 14, Section 4.14, Standardization.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

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Staff consulted with Corporate Services, Financial Services, Procurement staff and Corporate Services, Financial Planning, Administration, and Policy, Finance and Administration staff. All recommendations have been incorporated in this report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Purchasing Policy #14 - Policy for Standardization, Section 4.14, sub section (1) allows for a management decision making process to select a Good and/or Service that meets common needs or requirements.

Purchasing and maintaining one (1) brand of SCBA will provide professional commercial quality reliable equipment to front-line staff with reduced break-down time along with reduced time for repair. This will also assist in the process of periodic replacement of equipment with a typical life cycle of fifteen (15) years depending on the amount of use.

Firefighting is a very dangerous activity and requires reliance on proven equipment in a timely manner. The recommended equipment has been researched, tested and selected by the end users.

On an annual basis it may be necessary to replace damaged, worn out units or repair with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts. Operating Budget accounts are used for these types of expenditures. Should the recommendations in this Report be approved, staff will procure the goods or service in accordance with the Procurement Policy and required only MSA manufactured SCBA units and related equipment be specified as acceptable.

Fire Suppression staff requires equipment-specific ongoing training on SCBA. Standardization will reduce training, enhance product knowledge and assist in efficient emergency fire operations. Furthermore, equipment familiarity will assist in mitigating health and safety issues. Standardization also allows for the reduced stock levels of spare parts.

Equipment downtime is costly in terms of service delivery and results in increased costs. Reliable equipment reduces the number of spares that would be required and reduces the cost for repairs. Firefighters in the field rely on the quality of the equipment. Any breakdowns during firefighting operations would bring the fire crew to a stop while waiting for the replacement of the equipment thus extending the time of the emergency operation, which could result in the injury and/or fatality of firefighters and/or civilians, as well as result in potential liability to the City.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

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

None