

Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit Inc.
316 Beach Blvd
Hamilton, ON L8H 6W2

28 October 2025

City of Hamilton
c/o Matt Hilson
Supervisor, Budgets and Financial Planning
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Re: Request for Financial Support – 2026

Dear Council,

On behalf of the Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit (HBRU), thank you for inviting us to submit our 2026 funding request in support of local maritime search and rescue operations.

For nearly 70 years, our volunteer members have proudly served Hamilton's residents and visitors. We work closely with Hamilton Police and Hamilton Fire Services, providing a vital contribution to the region's emergency response capacity. Our members come from all walks of life and from all across the Greater Hamilton area. Each one represents a citizen giving back to their community.

While our volunteer members allow us to remain exceptionally cost-efficient as an emergency service, maintaining our vehicles, vessels, and facilities carries significant costs. We are grateful for the generous support the City of Hamilton has provided over the years which enables us to sustain the equipment and infrastructure needed to fulfill our search and rescue mandate. Hamilton is recognized as an exemplar station within the Canadian maritime search and rescue system.

Operating Support

Our 2026 operating costs are projected at approximately \$140,000. Of this amount:

- we anticipate generating about \$45,000 through fundraising and facility rentals;
- about \$15,000 is provided by the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary for crew training; and
- we are hopeful the City could grant \$78,000 to support operations – no increase in the amount that was provided last year.

We are working hard to contain operating costs and make prudent spending decisions. This has allowed us to develop a balanced budget for 2026 that absorbs inflationary increases.

Capital Planning

We are, however, experiencing growing pressure on our capital budget due to the rising cost of vessels and marine technology. While we currently maintain a healthy capital

reserve with the City, our ten-year forecast indicates a capital deficit within the next decade at current funding levels.

We have taken several steps to manage this challenge responsibly -- extending vessel service life, allocating operating surpluses to capital funding, and reserving unplanned Coast Guard funding for future capital needs. However, finding ways to manage our capital funding will be necessary to sustain our long-term readiness.

If possible, we respectfully request that the annual capital reserve contribution for 2026 be increased by 4.25%, and that if possible, the increase we are not requesting in operating funds might also be applied to the capital reserve fund.

As always, capital funds remain on deposit with the City until an expenditure is submitted and approved. Our next significant capital expenditure is the planned (and delayed for cost savings purposes) replacement of one of our rescue vessels, now scheduled for 2026/27.

Audit Alignment

Historically, our auditors have focused primarily on City and Coast Guard funding streams. Beginning with the 2025 fiscal year, we have asked our auditors to expand their scope to include all fundraising and related expenditures. This will ensure that our audited statements and our budget submissions to the City are fully aligned and provide a comprehensive picture of HBRU operations.

We sincerely appreciate the City's continued support and partnership and respectfully request Council's consideration of our 2026 funding submission. We remain committed to providing exceptional value to the community while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and operational readiness.

Respectfully submitted,



Ian McKillop
Chief – Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit

encl: 2024 Audited Financial Statements (PDF)
Schedule A – Operating Budget 2026 & Projected 2025 Actuals (PDF)
Schedule B – 10-Year Capital Plan 2026–2036 (Excel spreadsheet)
cc: Hamilton Beach Rescue Board of Directors