



## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** January 13, 2025  
**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Neil Anderson, Director of Emergency Services / Fire Chief  
**Report Number:** COU25-006  
**Attachments:** None

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**Title:** Fire Protection Grant Transfer Payment Agreement

**Objective:** To seek City Council approval to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Funding Agreement between the Province of Ontario and City of Stratford. This agreement is in support of a recent successful application for \$16,460.

**Background:** On March 26, 2024, the Ontario government announced a \$30 million Fire Protection Grant for municipal fire departments, available over three years, to support cancer prevention initiatives. This application-based grant allocates \$10 million annually for infrastructure, personal protective equipment, and decontamination tools for fire departments.

The Province allocated \$8,230 per fire station for each department with the intent to improve the reduction of cancer-causing agents or exposure to carcinogens.

Projects must be completed by end of December 2025.

**Analysis:** The Fire Department applied for just over \$24,000 of grant funding to procure a variety of equipment to reduce exposure to carcinogens. Based upon the grant allocated, the department intends to replace its existing commercial washer and extractor machine, a specialized machine to clean some of the firefighting gear after exposure to firefighting operations, biohazards, etc. The existing machine is seventeen years old and no longer performing as designed, despite multiple visits by maintenance and repair technicians. The machine was originally purchased in 2007.

The quote for a new machine and installation is \$16,930. The awarded amount is slightly less than this by \$470, which can be absorbed within the 2025 draft budget that had amount included relating to the maintenance and repairs for equipment. The item will be recorded as a capital purchase and funded from the grant revenues and the small transfer from operating funds.

To receive the funds through the Ontario transfer program, the Ontario Transfer Funding Agreement must be signed by signatories who have the authority to bind the Corporation.

**Financial Implications:**

**Financial impact to current year operating budget:**

The extra funds to complete the project, amounting to approximately \$470, would be transferred from the operating budget account to the Capital account and the grant funds will be recorded as grant revenues resulting in nominal impact to the 2025 budget.

**Link to Asset Management:** This grant will allow for the replacement of an aged asset. Future replacement costs are typically captured in the annual transfers to capital reserve funds. This investment will ensure that the protective gear can be maintained and cleaned to ensure maximum useful life.

**Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

**Enhance our Infrastructure:** This report and corresponding investment in asset replacement aligns directly with this Strategic Priority as it is asset and infrastructure maintenance and replacement.

**Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

**Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing through use of equipment that will support cancer prevention initiatives.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement with His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Ministry of the Solicitor General, Office of the Fire Marshal to support the municipal fire service in acquiring critical equipment and other needs to improve and enhance the level of fire protection service being provided;**

**AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement provided through the Fire Protection Grant on behalf of the Corporation.**

**Prepared by:** Neil Anderson, Director of Emergency Services / Fire Chief  
**Recommended by:** Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer