

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 6, 2021
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Chad Brown, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that it authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to execute a Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario.

BACKGROUND:

On March 4, 2021, the Ontario government announced that it is providing an additional \$500 million through the 2021 COVID-19 Relief Funding for Municipalities program. The program is intended to help municipalities respond to ongoing and unprecedented 2021 COVID-19 operating pressures. Municipalities have the flexibility to use this funding to address the specific priorities of their communities based on their unique COVID-19 related operating pressures. Funds must be used to support fire department training or use the grant to support a virtual inspection program to enhance your existing in-person inspection program.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills will be provided a total of \$7,800.00 for training and enhanced fire safety inspection tools which aligns with the intended purpose of Fire Safety Grant Program. Formalization of the grant allocation and the Transfer Payment Agreement is required. Municipal council must approve the proposal for spending the funds provided.

DISCUSSION:

The Mississippi Mills Fire Department (MMFD) submitted a proposal for the purchasing of tools that will enhance the training of firefighters and increase the electronic inspection capabilities for fire safety inspections.

MMFD will apply grant funding to purchase computer tablets. The tablets increase online learning when training firefighters and permits more blended training options as the Regional Training Centre students and MMFD firefighters receive approved training courses from the Ontario Fire College (OFC). The OFC has transitioned many of the NFPA Certification courses into a blended format where large portions of the training program are administered by online facilitation and reduced in-person class time. MMFD will also proceed with the purchase of a smart TV for the training room. The smart TV will permit instructors to broadcast training seminars and presentations over a digital medium to remote learners. The use of this technology will increase staff engagement by allowing flexibility in the hours they receive training and create an improved learning environment.

The tablets for training will also be multi-purposed for fire safety inspections. The tablets will provide fire inspectors that ability to access information from the current FirePro software and enhance their ability to control data and pictures efficiently. FirePro has integration capabilities for the tablets so the inspector may conduct fire safety inspections and record notes in a real-time electronic format. FirePro can process the electronic information input and print formatted Inspection Orders which ultimately improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the inspector. Implementation and roll out of the project are expected to take a few months.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Correspondence from the Fire Marshal on March 25th requires formalization of the grant allocation and the Transfer Payment Agreement and recommends the information be tabled at the next municipal council meeting. Authorizing the Agreement by the Clerk and Treasurer confirms the MMFD plan to fund increased training and fire safety inspection capability.

The Municipality of Mississippi Mills will be provided a total of \$7,800.00 to support the specified training and inspection initiatives. The projected costs are as follows;

- Computer Tablets \$5000
- Smart TV with integrated communications \$5000
- FirePro Integration \$1500
- Annual data communications \$1200

The funds required for this project beyond the \$7800 were planed actions included in the approved 2021 Budget. The fire department included funds to improved online training access for firefighters and replace a TV in the training room. The Grant money will permit additional options beyond the original plan and the purchase of new tablets will enhance the learning process and improve inspection effectiveness.

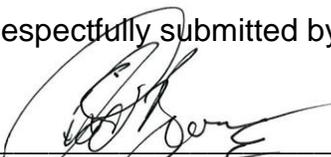
No further Budget funding is required for this project. Funding will be provided to the Municipality of Mississippi Mills upon execution of the Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement. The funds will need to be spent by the municipality by August 1, 2021.

SUMMARY:

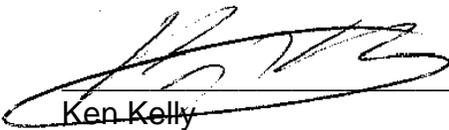
The Mississippi Mills Fire Department will proceed with the training and fire safety inspection project once the Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement has been executed. An additional Council Report will be forthcoming that will confirm the project is complete and will serve as the final reporting mechanism specified in the Agreement.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:



Chad Brown
Fire Chief



Ken Kelly
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement
2. Mississippi Mills Letter of Intent