



The Corporation of the City of Cornwall
Regular Meeting of Council
Report

Department: Cornwall & SD&G Paramedic Services
Division: Paramedics
Report Number: 2019-01-Cornwall SDG Paramedic Services
Prepared By: Bill Lister, Chief
Meeting Date: October 14, 2019
Subject: Land Ambulance Service Grant Information

Purpose:

To inform council of the uncertainty related to the provincial grant funding contributions to Land Ambulance Services.

Recommendation

That Council receive this report and refer the matter to the 2020 budget planning process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funds just under 50% of approved eligible costs of municipal Land Ambulance Services. The municipal share for Land Ambulance is funded between the City of Cornwall and the United Counties of SDG.

It is expected that recent funding announcements will have an impact on the municipal budget for Land Ambulance in 2020. Grant funding is not stable which decreases the confidence the traditional way of preparing budgets related to revenues will be accurate.

Community Paramedic programs are funded 100% by the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) through a Community Paramedic Secretariat and operates in partnership with the Cornwall Community Hospital, Champlain LHIN



Community Care Access Center and other local health care organizations. In 2019, the City received \$207,089 to run these programs. It is unclear how much, if any funding, will be allocated to Land Ambulance Services in 2020 to continue these programs.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City of Cornwall is the Delivery Agent of Ambulance Services for Cornwall and the United Counties of SDG.

The funding required to provide land ambulance services has traditionally been an equally shared responsibility between the province and the local tax base. This process has been in place since 2001. Procedurally, the costs of the previous year forms a base line and the grant funding would adjust for cost of living increases each year. In 2018, the City received \$6,520,873 from the province.

The 2019 land ambulance budget was based on the above mentioned assumption. The anticipated grant funding for 2019 was estimated at \$6,651,290. The budget was approved and the appropriate taxes were levied.

Following the completion of the City's budget cycle, the Provincial government announced ambulance grant funding is frozen at the 2017/2018 levels, effectively reducing the government contributions by 2%.

In August 2019, the Province revised its grant policy. A letter from the Deputy Ministry confirmed funding for land ambulance would be \$6,726,694 for Cornwall and SDG. In this same letter the government stated there will be unspecified increases for the 2020 budget year and the final confirmation of 2020 budget funding will be provided to municipalities in time for their 2020 budget process. The City is preparing the 2020 budget and the Province has not given any written confirmation towards its commitment to the 2020 budget year.

Paramedic Services also receives funding to operate a Community Paramedic Program. Through the Community Paramedic Program, Paramedic Services provides at home care to residents in the community, with a focus on seniors and patients living with chronic conditions. The Community Paramedic Programs promotes collaboration with other health care and community agencies. These connections assist patients to participate in their care, maintain independence and promote involvement in the community.



The funding used to run this program is given to the City through the LHIN. The government has announced it is dismantling the LHIN and has restructured the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. It is unclear at this time, where the Community Care funding will come from.

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Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Oct 7, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Maureen Adams - Oct 7, 2019 - 8:36 AM