



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

Department: Fire Services
Division: Fire
Report Number: 2020-218-Fire Services
Prepared By: Jeff Weber, Deputy Fire Chief
Meeting Date: February 10, 2020
Subject: Changes to Provincial HazMat program

Purpose

To provide information to Council regarding changes to the Hazardous Material (HazMat) response within the province of Ontario.

Recommendation

That Council receive report 2020-218-Fire Services for information purposes.

Financial Implications

The City has, over the years, absorbed some of the maintenance and replacement costs of the equipment originally purchased by the Province, and operated by Cornwall Fire Service. Consumables and contaminated equipment used at hazardous materials incidents are replaced through cost recovery. However, equipment such as our responder suits does have a maximum life span and there is a need to maintain a replacement schedule.

For 2020, the maintenance and replacement of equipment costs will be managed within our current equipment operating budget. We anticipate approximately \$15,000 worth of replacement this year.

Strategic Priority Implications

This strategy is directly in line with the City's Mission Statement of providing services that enable a financially and environmentally sustainable community which will care and provide for the needs and values of its residents.

Background / Discussion

In 2002, shortly after the attacks on the twin towers in New York City and the threats of domestic terror in the form of anthrax attacks in the United States, the Province of Ontario reacted by improving the overall response to hazardous materials incidents. At that time, the incident type was more focussed on the potential for domestic and international terror events. A 3-tiered system of response was established;

1. Awareness Level
2. Operations Level
3. Technician Level

The Provincial Government established a system of municipalities which have a specified level of services in their community to further be established as a Provincial resource that could be deployed to other municipalities as necessary. The Cornwall Fire Service had become an operational level or level 2 team and had been actively involved in the training and seminar events as well as providing guidance for the level 2 program within the province. During this program the Cornwall Fire Service was never deployed as a Provincial resource to another jurisdiction.

Along with this program, the Province of Ontario provided equipment caches to the teams and maintained the equipment throughout the years. This equipment included items such as responder suits, detection equipment, and some decontamination equipment.

During the past year, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) has decided to reduce the number of teams in this system. We received word this past year that changes were coming to the program. Recently, the OFMEM confirmed that Cornwall would no longer be considered as a level 2 team for the Province. As part of the OFMEM's move to lower the number of service providers in the Province, they have also provided the departments that



have participated in the past with the surplus equipment from the program. The cache of equipment that was provided and maintained has been given to the City of Cornwall for our continued use.

We will conduct a review of the equipment, and program requirements and will be better prepared to provide a more complete program costs for the 2021 budget. This will include an assessment of the current community risk profile considering the potential for a larger scale hazardous materials incident to occur within the City of Cornwall.

Staff will then be better positioned to determine the best options for Council to consider for the continued provision of Hazardous Materials emergency response services for the Cornwall Fire Service.

In 2018 and 2019, we responded to a total of 58 incidents. The nature of these incidents includes spills and releases of chemicals into the environment that constitute a public hazard. The hazardous nature of the release is primarily determined by the product's properties and may include reaction volatility, flammability, toxicity, radioactivity, and environmental sensitivity.

Document Title:	Changes to Provincial HazMat program - 2020-218-Fire Services.docx
Attachments:	- 2020-01e.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 31, 2020

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

Tracey Bailey - Jan 31, 2020 - 1:40 PM

Maureen Adams - Jan 31, 2020 - 4:20 PM