

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent
Chief Administrative Office
Fire and Emergency Services

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Chris Case, Fire Chief
Date: March 25, 2021
Subject: Fire Safety Grant Funding

Recommendation

1. That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute a transfer payment agreement with the Province of Ontario regarding \$29,600.00 in Fire Safety grant funding to support increased training opportunities as a result of the restriction from COVID-19;
2. That the terms of the agreements be subject to review and approval by the Director, Legal Services.

Background

On March 11th 2021, the Government of Ontario announced a one-time \$5M grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, Ontario's fire services have faced unprecedented Challenges. The ability to train fire service members in a COVID environment brought with it new restrictions and despite opportunities to train online and through other modes, not all training priorities may have been met over the last year. It is hoped that this grant will work to support Chatham-Kent fire and Emergency services through this period of uncertainty and ongoing challenges.

Chatham-Kent Fire and Emergency Services is eligible to receive up to \$29,600.00 as part of this grant program.

Comments

Chatham-Kent Fire and Emergency Services, submitted a proposal on March 15th, 2021 to the Office of the Fire Marshal. On March 24th, 2021, Chatham-Kent received formal approval by the Ontario Fire Marshal of the funding.

In order to receive funding, Chatham-Kent must execute a funding agreement with the Province. In order to meet the deadlines of the funding opportunity a letter of intent was signed by the Fire Chief with authority under the Delegate Authority Bylaw. A copy of this letter is attached (Appendix A)

Attached is the memo from the Ontario Fire Marshal (Appendix B) outlining the grant opportunity and funding available to Chatham-Kent. This document provides further information about the program and deliverables.

This is a great opportunity for Chatham-Kent and will assist in the purchase of technology to increase training opportunities for Chatham-Kent Firefighters.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

Consultation

Legal Services and Financial Services were consulted regarding this report.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial costs to the Municipality as a result of this report. The funding for the program is provided by the Province of Ontario.

Prepared by:

Chris Case
Fire Chief

Consulted with:

Gord Quinton
Chief Financial Officer

Consulted with:

David Taylor
Director, Legal Services

Attachment(s): Appendix A: Fire Safety Grant Funding – Chatham-Kent Letter of Intent
Appendix B: Chatham-Kent Fire Safety Grant Memo

Ministry of
Community Safety and
Correctional Services

Office of the
Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management

25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Tel: 647-329-1100
Fax: 647-329-1143

Ministère de la
Sécurité communautaire et
des Services correctionnels

Bureau du
commissaire des incendies et
de la gestion des situations d'urgence

25, Avenue Morton Shulman
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Tél. : 647-329-1100
Télééc. : 647-329-1143



March 24, 2021

Richard Scharf
Municipality of Chatham-Kent
P.O. Box 640, Civic Centre, 315 King St. W.
Chatham, ON N7M5K8

Dear Richard Scharf,

Further to ongoing discussions regarding the Fire Safety Grant Program, I am writing to confirm that the fire service has agreed (in principle) to utilizing its grant allocation to support its intended purpose as outlined below.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will be provided a total of \$29,600.00 to support:

- Increased training opportunities

This aligns with the intended purpose of Fire Safety Grant Program.

As part of this process, formalization of the grant allocation and the Transfer Payment Agreement is required and will be tabled by you for your municipal council at its next meeting.

The Office of the Fire Marshal will reach out to finalize and execute the Transfer Payment Agreement once municipal council has had the opportunity to approve your proposal for spending the funds provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Pegg".

Jon Pegg
Fire Marshal

Instructions to the Municipal Representative:

Please complete and submit a copy of this document to our office at ofm@ontario.ca by no later than March 31st, 2021.

I hereby accept the grant allocation and proposed strategy for utilization, pending approval by Municipality of Chatham-Kent as outlined above.

Print Name: CASE	Title: FIRE CHIEF	Signature: 	Date: 25-3-21
---------------------	----------------------	----------------	------------------

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Office of the Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management

25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Tel: 647-329-1100
Fax: 647-329-1143

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Bureau du commissaire des incendies et
de la gestion des situations d'urgence

25, avenue Morton Shulman
Toronto ON M3M 0B1
Tél. : 647-329-1100
Télééc. : 647-329-1143



MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor Darrin Canniff
CAO Don Shropshire
Clerk/Director of Municipal Governance Judy Smith
Fire Chief Chris Case

FROM: Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: March 11th, 2021

SUBJECT: Fire Safety Grant Announcement

Earlier today, the Government of Ontario announced a one time \$5M grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, Ontario's fire services have faced unprecedented challenges and have voiced those concerns to me as Fire Marshal. The ability to train fire service members in a COVID environment brought with it new restrictions and despite opportunities to train online and through other modes, I know that not all training priorities may have been met over the last year. In addition, my office has heard concerns from fire departments about fire code enforcement and the ability to enter premises to conduct inspections and promote fire safety. It is hoped that this grant will work to support fire services through this period of uncertainty and ongoing challenges.

I am pleased to advise that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is eligible to receive up to **\$29,600.00** as part of this grant program.

The grant is intended to provide fire departments with the flexibility to support two priority areas. First, this grant may be put towards ongoing training needs including registration, administrative programming, technology upgrades and associated costs for attending as well for providing services. In addition, if code compliance and inspections continue to be challenging, addressing opportunities for an inspection program may include technology, capital costs and training to ensure that fire services are able to meet the demand of this need at the local level.

In order to receive funds, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) requires that the attached application be submitted by a representative of the municipality. As decisions regarding

the grant may not have time to proceed to municipal council for approval within the timeframes identified below, my office would be comfortable with the fire chief accepting the grant in principle on behalf of the municipality, pending formal approval from the council. To help facilitate this process, once the grant applications are approved, I will send the respective fire chief a letter of intent that will be contingent upon council's deliberations. In order to allocate funds before March 31, 2021, all applications must be received by my office no later than March 19, 2021. In addition, as a condition of the grant, these funds must be spent by August 1, 2021, and a report back to the Fire Marshal will be required by September 1, 2021, to outline how the grant was utilized at the department level.

Completed agreements should be sent by email to the Office of the Fire Marshal at ofm@ontario.ca. If you have any questions about this grant, do not hesitate to reach out to your Fire Protection Adviser.

Yours truly,

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal