

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

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Chris Case, Fire Chief
Date: November 23, 2020
Subject: Land Ambulance Service Agreement

Recommendations

It is recommend that:

1. Council directs Fire Administration to investigate the options to extend the contract between the Municipality and Medavie to provide EMS services for an additional two years and then report back to Council with recommendations regarding the contract.
2. The investigation of the contract include discussions with Medavie and the County of Elgin to explore the opportunities for shared services.

Background

Medavie EMS CK Ontario Limited (Medavie) has been providing Land Ambulance Services to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent since January 1, 2012. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent maintains ownership and management of physical assets such as ambulances, equipment and stations; all staffing and day-to-day management is the responsibility of Medavie.

The contract for services expires in November 2021. Medavie has invited the Municipality to consider extending the current contract.

Medavie has been a significant community partner in Chatham-Kent.

Over the years, they have implemented a number of community programs and partnerships; in 2014, Medavie developed a partnership with the LHIN/Chatham-Kent Health Link (CKHL), which had a focus on identifying and case managing patients/clients in the community who were deemed as healthcare system high users.

In April 2017, Medavie partnered with the Primary Care Program at St. Clair College to establish community wellness clinics at various apartment complexes that house older adults and deemed high users of Paramedic Services. The purpose of these clinics is to help connect with community residents to provide vital sign checks, feedback and education that surround their health and well-being. If there is ever a health concern identified then the clinic personnel refer this resident to our dedicated Community Paramedic program for clinical follow-up.

In March 2019, Medavie entered into an agreement with the Municipal Housing Services to conduct a weekly wellness clinic in one of their subsidized housing apartment complexes. The Paramedic Led Wellness Clinic is an evidence-based program whose partners include researchers from McMaster University Department of Family Medicine in collaboration with several local Ontario paramedic services and municipal housing services. Older adults are invited to attend a free weekly clinic session within their apartment building, where paramedics conduct blood pressure, diabetes and falls risk assessments. Based on these assessments, they provide health education/promotion, community programs and resources to participants, as well as referral of participants' health information to a local Community Paramedic or their regular primary care practitioner.

In most recent months, the Medavie staff have conducted Community COVID-19 testing across the Municipality of Chatham-Kent to help ensure the safety of our citizens; this is in addition to the extensive influenza vaccination program which will see over 500 people vaccinated in Chatham-Kent this autumn.

Comments

Administration recommends the Municipality explore Medavie's invitation to extend the contract for several reasons:

1. Overall, the Municipality is satisfied with the level of services and the financial terms of the current contract;
2. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional demands on both the Municipality and EMS services. These additional demands will continue for some time. Maintaining continuity for service delivery and avoiding the additional burden of considering retendering the contract during the next year is recommended; and
3. Extending the current contract provides an opportunity to consider mutually agreeable changes, such as exploring shared services with the County of Elgin and tightening up some of the language in the agreement.

The County of Elgin has also contracted Medavie to provide EMS services to their community. Their contract ends in December 2020, and they are considering an extension to their contract as well. The CAO of Elgin County and our CAO Don Shropshire have discussed the opportunity to explore a shared service agreement with Medavie that could offer financial savings to all stakeholders. Medavie has indicated that they would support considering shared services.

Council should also be aware the Provincial Government is considering how EMS services should be delivered in Ontario. The Provincial consultation could see the current arrangements amalgamated into wider service areas under the control of the Province, rather than Municipalities.

Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors

The recommendations in this report support 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 recommendations in this report support 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

Chatham-Kent Fire and Emergency Services has consulted with the CAO, Legal Services and Financial Services departments regarding recommended changes to the existing Medavie agreement.

Financial Implications

The financial implications will be determined at a later date and brought to open session for approval.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

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Attachment(s): None

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Last update – November 23, 2020