
Memorandum

To: Budget Steering Committee

Cc: Shelley Chemnitz, CAO
Kristine Douglas, Director FMS

From: McCormick, Jeff, Acting Fire Chief

Date: November 15, 2017

Subject: Training/Educational Conferences and Departmental Training

Please accept this memo as a follow-up to a question that occurred as part of the FEMS 2018 budget presentation on November 6, 2017.

FEMS sends representatives of our department to a number of different training/educational conferences on an annual basis. These training/educational conferences provide opportunities for our staff to engage in up to date learning, research and technological advances and provide networking opportunities to increase their knowledge, skills and abilities in fire prevention, public education, communication, training, health and safety, labor relations, management and administration.

There are division specific training/educational conferences that are designed to address industry trends, patterns, advances and best practices that allow staff from each respective division to become better versed in their areas of expertise. Whether it be in classroom settings, lecture theatres or on trade show floors these opportunities are critical in advancing FEMS personnel in their performance of their duties. There is also the expectation that those who are attending the training/educational conferences opportunities share the information and learning with their divisional and departmental colleagues upon their return.

While these training/educational conferences take time away from regular duties and add additional costs to FEMS operations, they assist in ensuring our staff and department remains on the leading edge of the fire service, so that in turn we can assist in meeting the City's vision to be the most dynamic, innovative, sustainable and livable city in North America.

FEMS also has a well-respected, knowledgeable and active training division that is responsible for overseeing all departmental training. This includes providing in house and third party provided training to departmental personnel in various disciplines ranging from recruit training, medical training, survival training, emergency response training, officer

development, communications and fire prevention training. A significant portion of this training is required on an annual basis to be meet certification/ recertification guidelines as well as training that may be legislated.

There has been a \$20,000 increase in 2018 to the firefighter training line item 710.100.430 as fire departments in Ontario beginning in 2017 are now legislatively required through the Ministry of Labor to have an approved Post Traumatic Stress Disorder program in place. Our program, as written and approved in 2017 requires adequate funding so as to be to be able to implement the next step of the program in 2018. FEMS intends to do this through department wide training through a “train the trainer” system. In addition, there is leadership training in line item 710.100.402. This item is also shown on the significant changes document as part of the tabled budget.

Respectfully submitted

Jeff McCormick

Jeff McCormick,
Acting Fire Chief, Director of Fire and Emergency Management Services