



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Corporate Report

Report from Fire and Emergency Management Services, Deputy Fire Chief

Date of Report: April 2, 2013

Date of Meeting: April 22, 2013

Report Number: FEM-99-2013

File: 68.13.99

Subject: Request to Reallocate Funds to Attend Hazardous Material Workshop – Baltimore, Maryland

Recommendation

That Council approve reallocating funds from account 710.100.401 and utilize some of the funds for the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) to permit two Hazardous Material Technicians to attend a specialty workshop in Baltimore, Maryland. FORTHWITH

Summary

A Hazmat workshop is being offered this year in Baltimore Maryland that provides updates and information critical to the current program in Hazmat Operations within Fire Services. This course only became available after budget submissions were required last fall. As a result, fire services requests reallocating partial funds approved for the FDIC conference in order to send two fire fighters to attend this workshop. No additional funds are required thus spending would fall within the approved funds as outlined in the 2013 budget.

Background

As part of the 2013 Operating Budget, Fire Services receives approval to attend courses and seminars located outside of the province and country. Occasionally workshops and seminars are announced that are not budgeted for due to the timelines in which they are announced. In an effort to attend some of these conferences, we seek approval to either cancel a conference or share the cost of an additional conference with one already approved. This is accomplished by either reducing the number of personnel that attend or reducing the total time that we attend.

Report

Fire Services received approval in the 2013 Operating Budget to attend the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) located in Indianapolis, Indiana. We have attended this conference since 2002 and normally four personnel attend this conference and participate in hands on fire related skills as well as the trade show. The trade show (with over 1200 exhibitors) showcases new equipment, products and technology used

to help our department remain current with changing trends and standards. Our annual budget for the conference is \$5000 which covers travel, meals, registration and hotels.

As previously mentioned, we have an advanced Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) program which enables our department to provide set levels of protection when incidents arise within the city. We also participate as part of the Regional Hazmat Team which is utilized around the Niagara Region. This year we would like to send two fire fighters to attend a hands on workshop in Baltimore, Maryland whereby our personnel will gain valuable experience and knowledge in equipment, techniques and instruction thus enhancing our program which in turn benefits our response capabilities.

As a result the number of personnel attending FDIC would be reduced from four to two and two personnel would in turn be sent to Baltimore for the Hazmat workshop instead. We would still stay within our \$5000 budget and benefit by having personnel at both venues.

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications as the \$5,000 (from account number 710.100.401) was previously approved in the 2013 budget and both venues would be paid for through the approved monies. Approximately \$2,000 would be used for the HazMat Workshop and approximately \$3,000 for FDIC.

Conclusion

Fire Services seeks approval to attend an additional workshop in Baltimore, Maryland utilizing some of the funds allocated for the FDIC Conference as approved in the 2013 budget.

Notification

Not Applicable.

Submitted & Prepared by:

Larry Jones, Deputy Fire Chief
St. Catharines Fire Services

Approved by:

Mark Mehlenbacher, Fire Chief
St. Catharines Fire Services