

PROVINCIAL GRANT FUNDING FOR CALGARY 9-1-1 EMERGENCY FIRE DISPATCH SYSTEM UPGRADES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council support is requested for participation in a provincial grant funding application to the Alberta Community Partnership Program for the Calgary 9-1-1 Emergency Fire Dispatch project. The managing partner in the application is the City of Calgary and the partner municipality is the Town of Cochrane.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to support the City of Calgary's application for the Calgary 9-1-1 Emergency Fire Dispatch project as per the requirements of the Provincially-funded Alberta Community Partnership grant program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

None

BACKGROUND

The Provincial government recently launched the Alberta Community Partnership Program (ACP) with the objective "to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building initiatives". Key program outcomes include:

- New or enhanced regional municipal services;
- Improved municipal capacity to respond to municipal and regional priorities; and
- Effective inter-municipal relations through joint and collaborative activities.

Alberta Municipal Affairs is responsible for administering the ACP. The Intermunicipal Collaboration component of the program provides funding to partnerships of two or more municipalities to develop or expand regional municipal service delivery. The maximum grant funding per project is \$350,000.

The City of Calgary will be leading the Calgary 9-1-1 Emergency Fire Dispatch project to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fire emergency response. More information on the project can be found in the ACP application attached with this report. This project has approved City of Calgary funding and is scheduled to be delivered in 2016. Applying to this grant program is an opportunity for The City of Calgary to leverage this funding source.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

A requirement to apply for the Alberta Community Partnership Intermunicipal Collaboration grant is that all partner municipalities must pass Council resolutions in support of the project identified in the application.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

In preparation for the grant application, Calgary 9-1-1 engaged the Town of Cochrane to formally partner in the project (letter of support from the Town of Cochrane is attached). This project will benefit multiple regional municipalities who use Calgary's 9-1-1 services. The new system will increase fire evaluation protocols from a manual card driven 55 protocols to a software parameter driven 1200 protocols. Implementation of this system will enable

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Emergency Fire Dispatch's accreditation with the internationally recognized National Academies of Emergency Dispatch.

Strategic Alignment

This report aligns with Council's priority of a well-run city: "Calgary's government is open, responsive, accountable and transparent, delivering excellent services at a fair price. We work with our government partners to ensure we have the tools we need" (Action Plan 2015-2018). It further aligns with Calgary 9-1-1's Action Plan goal that "Citizen and responder safety is ensured through consistent evaluation."

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

There are no social, environmental or external economic implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Ongoing operating costs of a project are ineligible for grant funding under the Alberta Community Partnership Intermunicipal Collaboration component. The future operating expenses for the Emergency Fire Dispatch system have already been considered and approved for City of Calgary funding.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

The support of this motion will enable Calgary 9-1-1 to apply for grant funding of \$350,000 to help pay for hardware, software and training associated with the implementation of Emergency Fire Dispatch. If the application is successful and funding is granted, Calgary 9-1-1 can use the previously allocated funds to accelerate other strategically defined technology projects (i.e. disaster recovery and call processing improvements).

Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Alberta Municipal Affairs requires a resolution from Council confirming support for the project as part of the grant application process.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Application to Alberta Community Partnership Intermunicipal Collaboration Program
2. Letter of Support - Town of Cochrane