



City Council Committee Report

Date: 26 July 2010
To: Mayor & Council
Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager
Re: Township of Ear Falls Resolution No. 276-10

Recommendation:

That Council endorse and support Township of Ear Falls' Fire Chief Gary Gazankas' letter of 16 June 2010 (please find copy attached) to Kenora District Municipal Association President Garry Parkes regarding Fire Department Capital and Operational Funding; and further

That Council endorses and supports the Township of Ear Falls' Resolution No. 276-10 requesting all member municipalities of the Kenora District Municipal Association to petition the Ontario Government for an increase to capital grants to assist Fire Departments in the North.

Background: Council for the City of Kenora in December of 2007 petitioned the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to fully fund the Northwestern Campus of the Ontario Fire College so as not to compromise the Ontario Standardized Firefighter Training curriculum and programs and further Council requested that Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services through the Office of the Fire Marshal fully fund any training and workshops that may result from Ontario Fire Marshal initiated new fire safety legislation.

A 2008 Fire Fighting in Canada survey of the Canadian Fire Service Industry reveals the following:

- 67 % of fire departments serve rural areas
- 66% of fire departments serve populations under 10,000 including 44% who serve fewer than 5000
- In 2007 38.2% of all calls responded to were for fire related reasons
- In 2007 24.7% of all calls were for medical reasons
- In 2007 21.5 % of all calls were for motor vehicle crashes
- In 2007 15.5% of all calls were for other reasons.
- On average between 35% and 39% of pumpers, tankers, and aerials are more than 15 years old-replacement cost for a pumper is in excess of \$425,000 while replacement cost for an aerial is one million dollars.
- On average 32% of bunker suits are over ten years old-NFPA standard requires that bunker suits be replaced every 10 years-replacement costs per bunker suit average \$2000.00
- On average 35% of self contained breathing apparatus are over ten years old-the average cost for one set of self contained breathing apparatus is \$5500.00
- 36% of fire departments do not have a thermal imaging camera-the average cost for one thermal imaging camera ranges between \$8000.00 and \$20,000
- 22% of fire departments do not have heavy hydraulic vehicle extrication equipment- the average cost for one set of heavy hydraulic vehicle extrication tools ranges between \$30,000.00 and \$60,000

- 35 % do not have hand tool vehicle extrication equipment
- 81% of fire departments do not have hazmat response capability
- On average 46.2% of on duty firefighters carry a radio at an emergency scene
- On average the reported 2008 public education/fire prevention budget was under \$2000.00
- On average 30% of the fire departments that responded to this survey had public education/fire prevention budget that was less than \$1000.00

Fire protection services are a municipal responsibility and are funded entirely by the ratepayer.

In March of 2005 the Ontario Government made the following announcement:

March 22, 2005

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IMPROVES FIRE SAFETY

Fire Departments To Receive Money For Training And Equipment

TORONTO — The Ontario government is helping Ontario municipalities better protect residents by providing funding to municipal fire departments for training and equipment for the first time in more than 20 years, Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter announced today.

“The government is furthering the cause of community safety by ensuring that firefighters in the province have the training and tools they need to do their job and help minimize the risk of personal harm,” Kwinter said. “We recognize that municipalities — particularly in rural areas — require additional support to provide high-quality fire protection. That's why we are providing them with this unprecedented one-time funding.”

Funds from the \$30-million Ontario Fire Service Grant will be distributed to municipalities’ fire departments to meet training needs and, where appropriate, purchase new equipment.

“This program responds to a real need among fire services across Ontario,” Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle said. “It provides fire services with the flexibility to tailor the funding for local needs so that they may continue to deliver outstanding service to the people of this province.”

“This funding will enable fire departments across the province to ensure firefighters have the training and equipment necessary to better protect the people of Ontario,” Kwinter said.

The City of Kenora received \$70,000 from this grant. This grant has offset costs associated to water supply (hi-vol hose), a pumper truck, and an air compressor.

No other monies for Municipal Fire Protection Services have been received from the Ontario Government.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: City portal/media, and circulated to KDMA