



# Staff Report

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## Operations – Sustainability & Solid Waste

**Report To:** COW - Operations, Planning and Building Services  
**Meeting Date:** May 20, 2025  
**Report Number:** OPS.25.024  
**Title:** Landfill Scale Emergency Purchase  
**Prepared by:** Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report OPS.25.024, entitled “Landfill Scale Emergency Purchase”;

AND THAT Council approve the supply and installation of scale electronics by Mettler Toledo for \$38,956.40 plus a contingency of \$5,000 for an upset limit of \$43,956.40 plus HST, to replace damaged equipment and upgrade other components in-line with proposed capital equipment improvements.

### B. Overview

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The Disposal Site vehicle scale needs a replacement terminal, because of a lightning strike. This equipment and other related parts are scheduled for replacement in 2026 as a capital improvement, it is proposed that this upgrade occur with the replacement of the damaged terminal.

### C. Background

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On April 3<sup>rd</sup> a lightning strike impacted multiple systems at the Town’s Disposal Site, causing a multi-day power outage and equipment damage. In addition to the Site’s vehicle scale, the landfill compactor, leachate pre-treatment system and a surface water pumping system required parts and breaker replacements. The on-Site hydro pole was also impacted, and the breaker was replaced by a Hydro One crew.

The scale was rendered non-functional for weeks prior to being provided with a loaner terminal from Mettler Toledo. This loaned equipment continues to be in operation until a replacement terminal can be purchased and installed.

The 2025 Approved Town Budget includes a project to twin the scales at the Disposal Site. This project was supported to upgrade the 22-year-old existing scale, install a second scale and make improvements to the existing scale house. The 2025 Budget approved only the

engineering portion (\$28,000) of the project with the remainder (\$442,000) proposed for the 2026 Budget.

## **D. Analysis**

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To restore full functionality and align with the upcoming capital project to twin the scales, proceeding with a permanent upgrade of the system to a digital platform is recommended.

Repairing and replacing the lightning-damaged terminal is an opportunity to complete the full upgrade of the electrical components from the existing analog system to a digital system. Digital load cells and related components will provide guaranteed lightning protection, more accurate weighing and betterment to the existing scale to extend the useful life of the foundation and weigh bridge (deck). Analog components continue to be available, however they are typically only installed as replacement parts. Digital systems are more efficient and have more reliable and robust operation. More accurate weighing improves the potential for more revenue. Load cells are also the most common point of failure, installing higher quality digital load cells will reduce down-time and lost revenue.

Staff recommend financing the complete digital upgrade (\$43,956.40) this year to complete the planned improvements along with the replacement of the damage terminal. This investment will extend the life of the existing scale and will support the planned addition of a second scale in 2026. Installation could take place within the next month and would span approximately three days. We anticipate a possible one-day Site closure to facilitate the installation.

Alternatively, a replacement analog terminal could be purchased and installed for an estimated \$6,000 to \$10,000. However, this will become a “throw-away” cost, if the scale is upgraded to a digital system in 2026. The terminal model used by the Town is available as analog or digital. A high-end model is available that can run both ways, with modifications. However, the high-end terminal would be in the \$10,000 range and would require modification when the change to digital is made at an additional cost of \$2,000 or more.

## **E. Strategic Priorities**

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### **1. Communication and Engagement**

We will enhance communications and engagement between Town Staff, Town residents and stakeholders

### **2. Organizational Excellence**

We will continually seek out ways to improve the internal organization of Town Staff and the management of Town assets.

### **3. Community**

We will protect and enhance the community feel and the character of the Town, while ensuring the responsible use of resources and restoration of nature.

#### **4. Quality of Life**

We will foster a high quality of life for full-time and part-time residents of all ages and stages, while welcoming visitors.

#### **F. Environmental Impacts**

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Prolonging the life of the existing scale avoids the need for complete replacement, saving concrete and steel resources.

#### **G. Financial Impacts**

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The approved 2025 capital budget includes an allocation of \$28,000 for engineering work on the Twin Scale project. The proposed 2026 budget further estimates \$442,000 for the project's construction component, making the total project cost for engineering and construction \$470,000. Currently, only \$28,000 has been approved by Council.

The capital work recommended in this report is included as part of the proposed construction for 2026, and its advancement is prompted by damage resulting from a lightning strike. By completing this work for the existing scale now, it is expected that the proposed construction costs for the Twin Scale project in 2026 will be reduced equivalently, as the work is merely being moved forward.

The costs will be funded by Solid Waste Development Charges and the Solid Waste Asset Replacement Reserve Fund. As of December 31, 2024, the balances in these reserve funds were \$303,245.82 and \$560,843.14, respectively.

Should Council decide to replace the existing terminal like for like the cost would be funded from the Solid Waste Asset Replacement Reserve Fund. This option would not reduce the proposed Twin-Scale project construction costs estimated in 2026 should Council decide to proceed with that project as part of the 2026 Budget process.

There are sufficient reserve funds available for both options.

#### **H. In Consultation With**

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Michael Switzer, Deputy Treasurer / Manager of Budgets & Accounting

#### **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been the subject of a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. However, any comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste [managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca).

**J. Attached**

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None

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Fletcher,  
Manager of Sustainability & Solid Waste

Alan Pacheco  
Director of Operations

For more information, please contact:  
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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	OPS.25.024 Landfill Scale Emergency Purchase.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 9, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Jeff Fletcher - May 9, 2025 - 12:05 PM**

**Alan Pacheco - May 9, 2025 - 1:21 PM**