



# Staff Report

## Administration – Fire Department

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** April 6, 2021  
**Report Number:** FAF.21.060  
**Title:** Ontario Grant Funding to Help Municipal Fire Services Address the Impacts of COVID-19  
**Prepared by:** Steve Conn, Fire Chief

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.21.060, entitled “Ontario Grant Funding to Help Municipal Fire Services Address the Impacts of COVID-19”;

AND THAT Council provide direction to staff to move forward with purchasing feedback devices for firefighter training.

AND THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Town Clerk to enter into the Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement with the Office of the Fire Marshal.

### B. Overview

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This report details the announcement on March 11, 2021 from the Solicitor General Syliva Jones, that the province is providing \$5 million in new funding to help Municipal Fire Services address the impacts of COVID-19.

### C. Background

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There are 441 Fire Departments in Ontario; including 32 large Municipal Services consisting of full-time fire personnel, 215 composite Fire Departments made up of full-time and volunteer personnel, and 194 small Municipal Fire Services or communities without Municipal organization and are solely volunteers.

COVID-19 created risks and unprecedented challenges for Fire Departments to conduct training and fire safety inspections. A number of organizations petitioned the Ontario Government and the Government responded back with a funding formula specific to each Municipality based on census population plus the base rate of \$4,500. The Town of The Blue Mountains is eligible to receive up to \$6,300 as part of this one-time grant program.

## D. Analysis

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In consultation with the Fire Department Training Officer and Acting Deputy Chief, the consensus was to utilize this grant funding towards the newly released February 18, 2021 requirements from Heart and Stroke. The new requirements and recommendations will require the use of an instrumented directive feedback device in all Heart and Stroke courses that include skills testing, adult, child, or infant CPR, excluding first aid. Although first aid is excluded, the use of feedback devices is recommended by Heart and Stroke.

These feedback devices would have been a future capital item for the Town to ensure that Firefighters received the corrective feedback to clearly identify their performance on chest compressions rate, depth, and recoil.

Staff have compiled the information and costing below to complete the project.

Item	Quantity	Cost	Amount
Zoll Plus AED Trainer (English)	2	\$475.00	\$950.00
Laerdal Little Anne QCPR 4-Pack	1	\$1,060.00	\$1,060.00
Laerdal Little Junior QCPR 4-Pack	1	\$1,005.00	\$1,005.00
Little Baby QCPR 4-Pack	1	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00
Laerdal Airway Management Trainer (Intubation, Ventilation And Suction Training)	1	\$2,920.00	\$2,920.00
Trauma Bag Outfitted With Required First Responder Inventory	2	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
Instructor Course (New Instructional Personnel)	2	\$975.00	\$1,950.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$10,115.00</b>

Fire Department staff have instructed Town employees for First Aid courses and certification rather than using an external trainer to come into Town 2-3 times per year. The benefit of having the Fire Department train Town staff is that the number of students per instructor is smaller, allowing for more time for the hands-on skills portion, along with coordinating 2-3 courses throughout the year. Following the recommendations of Heart and Stroke these feedback devices will also be used for Town employees receiving first aid and CPR training.

## **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.

### **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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None.

## **G. Financial Impacts**

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Staff have submitted an application to receive the \$6,300 provincial grant to purchase these feedback devices for firefighter training purposes. The application has been granted pending signature of the Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement. The Fire Department will also use \$1,950 from the 2021 training budget to send staff for instructor certification. The certification will enable training in house for Fire Department staff and Town staff for first aid certification. In consultation with the Manager of Human Resources, the amount of \$1865.00 will be funded from the corporate health and safety budget to complete the items required. Total project cost to the Town is \$3,815.

## **H. In Consultation With**

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Darren Johnson, Training Officer

Duncan Rydall, Acting Deputy Fire Chief

Sarah Traynor, Manager of Human Resources

Shawn Everitt, Chief Administrative Officer

## **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 Steve Conn, Fire Chief  
[firechief@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:firechief@thebluemountains.ca) .

## **J. Attached**

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### 1. Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Conn  
Fire Chief

Shawn Everitt  
Chief Administrative Officer

For more information, please contact:  
Steve Conn, Fire Chief  
[firechief@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:firechief@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-5411 extension 103

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	FAF.21.060 Ontario Grant Funding to Help Municipal Fire Services to Address the Impacts of COVID-19.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment FAF.21.060 Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 29, 2021

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

**Steve Conn - Mar 26, 2021 - 2:44 PM**

**Shawn Everitt - Mar 29, 2021 - 9:15 AM**