



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: April 14, 2021

Report Number: SRCM.21.04

Department: Office of the City Manager

Division: Strategy and Government Relations

Subject: **SRCM.21.04 Fire Safety Grant Agreement**

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to execute a funding transfer payment agreement with the provincial Office of the Fire Marshal for a Fire Safety Grant of \$52,700 for equipment and software to increase training opportunities and establish a virtual inspection program, in accordance with the grant fund requirements.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That staff be authorized to execute a funding transfer payment agreement with the provincial Office of the Fire Marshal for a Fire Safety Grant of \$52,700 for equipment and software to increase training opportunities and establish a virtual inspection program, as outlined in SRCM.21.04.

Contact Person:

Steve Kraft, Fire Chief

Ashley Dickinson, Coordinator, Strategy and Government Relations

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Lise Conde, Manager, Strategy and Government Relations

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

On March 11, the Province of Ontario announced \$5 million in funding to help municipal fire services address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the announcement, the City of Richmond Hill received a memo from the provincial Office of the Fire Marshal (Attachment 1), advising that the City is eligible to receive up to \$52,700 in funding for works that enhance fire safety training and/or support safety inspection programs to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code.

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) requested that the City provide a funding application submission by March 19, 2021, acknowledging that the tight timeline would not enable Council approval prior to submission. Consequently, the OFM requested that the municipal Fire Chief accept the funding in principle by submitting the application, with formal Council approval to follow.

In consideration of the timing requirements associated with spending the funding allocation, Richmond Hill Fire and Emergency Services submitted an application for equipment and software to increase training opportunities and establish a virtual inspection program on March 19, 2021 (Attachment 2), in order to secure the grant allocation. This report is a necessary formal approval by Council to apply for and secure the funding amount via execution of a Transfer Payment Agreement.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial impacts associated with report. The cost of the requested digital equipment included in the funding application will be 100% covered by the grant fund.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

The City's application for Fire Safety Grant funding represents Fiscal Responsibility, one of Council's 2020-2022 Strategic Priorities.

Climate Change Considerations:

Climate change considerations are not applicable to this report.

Conclusion:

The Province of Ontario announced \$5 million in funding to help municipal fire services address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on March 11, 2021. To secure Richmond Hill's allocation of \$52,700, staff submitted an application to the Office of the Fire Marshal on March 19, 2021 as required. This report seeks Council approval to execute a funding transfer payment agreement with the provincial Office of the Fire Marshal for a Fire Safety Grant of \$52,700 for equipment and software to increase training opportunities and establish a virtual inspection program, in accordance with the grant fund requirements.

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Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. All attachments have been reviewed and made accessible. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Attachment 1: Funding Notification Letter from Ontario Fire Marshal dated March 11
- Attachment 2: Richmond Hill Fire Safety Grant application dated March 19
- Attachment 3: Letter of Intent to provide funding from Ontario Fire Marshal dated March 25

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCM.21.04 Fire Safety Grant Agreement.docx
Attachments:	- SRCM.21.04 Fire Safety Grant Att 1.pdf - SRCM.21.04 Fire Safety Grant App Att 2.pdf - SRCM.21.04 RH Letter of Intent Att 3.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Mar 30, 2021

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

MaryAnne Dempster - Mar 30, 2021 - 5:01 PM