

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Chris Snetsinger

Fire Chief

Date: April 12, 2021

Subject: Report CAOFS21-005

Office of the Fire Marshal Fire Safety Grant

## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that the City enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement for a Fire Safety Grant from the Office of the Fire Marshal.

#### Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CAOFS21-005 dated April 12, 2021 of the Fire Chief as follows:

That a By-law be passed authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Fire Safety Grant Program Transfer Payment Agreement and any subsequent amendments between Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Ontario as represented by the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Corporation of the City of Peterborough in terms acceptable to the Chief Administrative Officer and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor to be used by Peterborough Fire Services to offset the challenges of Covid-19.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

The Office of the Fire Marshal has determined that Peterborough Fire Services is eligible for a Fire Safety Grant of \$24,500 based on population.

## **Background**

On March 11, 2021 the Government of Ontario announced a one time \$5M grant to municipal fire services. The Office of the Fire Marshal has determined that Peterborough Fire Services is eligible for \$24,500 based on its population.

To allocate funds before March 31, 2021, applications were to be received by the Office of the Fire Marshal no later than March 19, 2021. As decisions regarding the grant may not have time to proceed to municipal council for approval within the short timeframes, the Office of the Fire Marshal has allowed the Fire Chief to accept the grant in principle on behalf of the municipality, pending formal approval from Council.

Covid-19 has created risks and unprecedented challenges for fire departments to conduct training and fire safety inspections. This one-time funding will increase training opportunities for firefighters by the delivery of programs remotely and further support the fire prevention division by establishing a virtual inspection program to help achieve compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. A Council resolution and signed Transfer Payment Agreement must be submitted no later than April 30, 2021.

# **Summary**

The Fire Safety Grant Program is intended to assist fire services in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Submitted by,

Chris Snetsinger Fire Chief

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