

Report to Council

Report Title: New Regional Fire Training Centre Donations
Prepared By: Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services
Department: Fire
Date: May 7, 2024
Report Number: FIRE2024-03 **File Number:** C11FIRE

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIRE2024-03 – New Regional Training Centre Donations, prepared by Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services and in doing so ratifies and approves the purchase of laptops for the Brockton Regional Training Centre testing facility and approves the allocation of \$9500 in funding from NWMO towards this purchase.

Report:

Background:

As reported to Council in December of 2023 the Brockton Regional Training Centre (BRTC) has been working to establish itself as the place to attend for Provincially certified training. It has been a very busy start to 2024 with various courses and testing offered locally as part of the BRTC offerings. A nationally recognized exam is required at the end of each course for certification purposes. In order to align with the Province’s new electronic cloud based testing software new laptops were required.

The Brockton Regional Training Centre continues to provide services to Brockton’s own firefighters, other firefighters within the County of Bruce, and even brings in students and instructors from other regions in Ontario. The in-class portions of the courses, which span over several weekends, bring in patrons to local restaurants and accommodations within Brockton.

The BRTC has increased its course offerings in the 2024 calendar year by providing a total of 9 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) courses. Between January and April, the BRTC has already enrolled 65 students in various courses and could expect an additional 67 students in the upcoming courses this year. During the April 20-21, 2024 weekend, the BRTC had 5 courses running simultaneously in Shelburne, Walkerton and Sauble Beach. Of the 28 Regional Training Centres in the Province of Ontario, Brockton is not aware of any others stated that ran this number of courses in this number of locations simultaneously. The Ontario Fire College and the Ontario Fire Marshall’s Office were very interested in the way the courses were organized and

implemented and both the Deputy Fire Marshall and the Ontario Academic Manager attended several of the courses at these sites on this weekend and spoke very favourably of the programs offered by the BRTC.

The BRTC actively strives to improve its offerings to firefighters within the region and is rapidly establishing itself as a centre of excellence for training in this industry.

Analysis:

Previously written testing was the method of testing used at the centre. Students would write and submit written exams and wait nearly 6 months to determine whether they passed their exam. This led to enrollment challenges for corresponding courses which required prerequisites. The need for laptops was identified early to improve the services offered at the BRTC. To help support the courses and continue the successful growth of the BRTC, several laptops were purchased in 2023 based on donations that were received. Unfortunately, those donations were not sufficient to fund all the laptops that were required. The BRTC is pleased to confirm that in 2024 an application was submitted to the NWMO for their sponsorship and donation program. This application was approved in the amount of \$9,500 for the purchase of the remaining laptops needed to allow the testing centre to test an entire class at a single event. With electronic testing with the acquired laptops, students automatically receive a pass/fail notification, which is a significant benefit for the students attending the BRTC. By approving this funding, the NWMO has graciously supported a program that will not just benefit the BRTC but also every firefighter that enrolls in our certificate programs throughout the County and it is greatly appreciated. As this purchase was unbudgeted Council approval is required to ratify the decision to purchase these additional laptops, which, due to the timing of the courses scheduled through the Ontario Fire College, could not be obtained in advance.

The BRTC ensures that our residents will have professional, qualified and competent fire services during emergencies, and the collaborative efforts of all involved in making the BRTC a success should be lauded.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Funding spent on the laptops required was 100% donated and is not funded from Municipal taxes. Funds generated from the BRTC will support the ongoing maintenance and replacement of the laptops.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer