

Report to Council

Report Title:	Fire Protection Grant Application		
Prepared By:	Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services		
Department:	Fire		
Date:	September 10, 2024		
Report Number:	FIRE2024-06	File Number:	C11FIRE
Attachments:	N/A		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number FIRE2024-06 - Fire Protection Grant Application, prepared by Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services for information purposes and further ratifies the application for the Fire Protections Grant.

Report:

Background:

The Province of Ontario has approved the release of a fire protection grant in the amount of \$10 Million dollars. This funding is intended to support cancer prevention initiatives for fire departments across the province. These initiatives must fall into the following categories:

Cancer Prevention – Equipment and Supplies [1]

- Field decontamination kits (hoses, nozzles, brushes, buckets, decontamination wipes)
- Respiratory protection programs (e.g., fit test equipment)

Cancer Prevention – PPE

- Bunker gear extractors
- Personal Protective Equipment
 - o Bunker gear (second set or increasing spare supply)
 - o Additional self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
 - o Personal SCBA facepieces
 - o Gloves or flash hoods (second set or increasing spare supply)
- Testing and inspection programs for PPE (including third party contracting)

Cancer Prevention – Minor Infrastructure

- Shower/decontamination facilities
- Diesel exhaust extractors

- Bunker gear storage areas

Minor Infrastructure Modernization – Enhanced Broadband and Internet Connectivity

- Broadband or Wi-Fi enhancements

Analysis:

Brockton’s Director of Fire and Emergency Services has recently teamed up with both the Elmwood Fire Department and the Walkerton Fire Department to apply for the Ontario Fire Protection Grant. This collaborative effort focuses on securing funding for essential items needed by each department. By working together on this grant application, the departments hope to address critical areas such as equipment upgrades, facility updates, and overall improvements in their fire protection services. Below are the requirements needed for each department and an overview of what is included in the application.

Walkerton Fire – Increasing spare PPE supply: In the past two years, the budget for bunker gear has been directed towards outfitting the eight new recruits, leaving less focus on maintaining the spare gear needed to keep the department operational during gear decontamination. While the Walkerton station has a strong decontamination policy and the facilities required for safe gear cleaning, this funding would strengthen our ability to continue serving the community efficiently after high-exposure events, such as fires or medical emergencies.

Elmwood Department – Shower/decontamination facilities: While the Elmwood Department aims to uphold the same stringent decontamination policies and procedures as Walkerton, it faces challenges due to insufficient space for proper gear decontamination. The current hall lacks adequate facilities to segregate and contain contaminants during the decontamination process following high-exposure emergencies. Additionally, the fire hall is equipped only with a chemical drench shower and does not have the facilities for staff to shower off contaminants before leaving for home. This gap in safety has been recognized and discussed at the Joint Board level. The grant application seeks funding to support an expansion of the Elmwood Fire Hall, which would include these essential upgrades.

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 | N/A |
| • 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 | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

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

Both of these items will need to be addressed in future budgets; however, this application would offer substantial financial relief and lower the costs for ratepayers.

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, overlapping loop at the end.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Wells', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Wells, Director of Fire and Emergency Services

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer