



**Subject:** *Fire Service Training Funding - Expanded Use*  
**To:** Corporate and Residential Services Committee  
**Date Prepared:** April 11, 2023  
**Related Motions:** C23(72)  
**Prepared by:** Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services  
**Approved by:** Kim Ramsay, CAO

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### Summary

At Council's March 2023 regular meeting a letter was received from the East Hants Fire Service Association (EHFSA) requesting to expand the use for the fire training funding. The fire training funding is identified in Councils Fire Service Funding Policy and is used for Basic Fire Fighter and Fire Officer training. EHFSA is requesting to expand the use of funding to allow for specialized training and guest speakers.

This report will review the applicable policy changes required should Council choose to proceed with the request.

### Financial Impact Statement

This request can be achieved within the current \$10,000 annual funding allocated by Council for fire training. The current balance for fire training in reserve G053 is \$61,837.

### Recommendation

That Council approves the recommended amendments to the fire service policy to enable use of funds for specialized training and guest speakers for East Hants Fire Service members.

### Recommended Motion

#### To be made on April 18, 2023

*Move that the Corporate and Residential Services Committee, recommend to Council, that Council gives notice of intent to approve the policy amendments to the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the April 18<sup>th</sup> Corporate and Residential Services Committee agenda.*

#### To be made at Regular Council April 26, 2023

*Move that the Corporate and Residential Services Committee, recommend to Council, that Council approve the policy amendments to the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the April 18<sup>th</sup> Corporate and Residential Services Committee agenda.*

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### Background

In 2014 the fire chiefs submitted a request to Council for funding to support the Basic Firefighter and Fire Officer training program for East Hants members. This was approved by Council and later included in Council's Fire Service Funding policy. Council allocates \$10,000 annually and any unused funds are set aside in reserve.

The Central Nova Scotia Fire Service Association (CNFSA) administers the Basic Firefighter and Fire Officer training program. Current process includes a sign off of invoices by the CNFSA training committee for reimbursement of East Hants firefighters.

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## Discussion

Upon direction from Council, a review of the Fire Service Funding Policy was completed to identify the required policy changes. Staff are recommending four changes in the policy.

The first change is to add language to identify what the funding is currently being used for (Basic Firefighter and Fire Officer training).

The second change would identify that the funds can be used for guest speakers and specialized training.

The third change is to acknowledge that the East Hants Fire Service is responsible for the appropriate use of the funds in alignment with the policy.

The fourth change is a housekeeping item. It is a recommendation to delete policy statement #26 that identifies the funding of a regional fire service training facility. This statement is no longer applicable as Council has received the letter identified in policy and advanced this through motion C22(421).

The draft policy changes are included in the appendix on pages 4 and 5 of the Fire Funding Policy.

Council may choose to seek input from the Fire Advisory Committee on these recommended changes. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 1.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Goal: Strong Community - Our goal is to provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and business to thrive.

Objective: Provide effective and efficient emergency management and support to the East Hants Fire Service.

### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Council has the authority to make this decision. If Council supports the request, policy updates are recommended.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council allocates \$10,000 annually for fire training funding. Any un-used funds are transferred to reserves at year end.

The current reserve balance (G053) is \$61,837.

The average funding spent over the past 6 years is \$4,180. The chart below outlines the specific yearly breakdown over the past 6 years.

#### Fire Training Funding

Fiscal Year	Funding Amount
2017/2018	\$2,050
2018/2019	\$6,430
2019/2020	\$0
2020/2021	\$3,750
2021/2022	\$12,300
2022/2023	\$550
Annual average	\$4,180

Staff are of the opinion that the request can be accounted for in the annual allotment without having to increase the \$10,000 contribution.

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## Alternatives

1. Council may seek input from Fire Advisory Committee.
  2. Council may leave the policy status quo and maintain the current identified use of funds.
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## Attachments

1. Letter from the East Hants Fire Service
2. Draft Fire Service Funding Policy amendments