



Date: July 16th, 2025
To: Council
cc: Kim Ramsay, Adam Clarkson
From: Calvin Byard
Re: Support for Nova Scotia Emergency Provider Fund

1. Purpose of Report

To seek Council's endorsement of a resolution supporting the Shubenacadie Volunteer Fire Department's application to the Nova Scotia Emergency Provider Fund (EPF) to purchase a trailer, aimed at sustaining and enhancing their vital emergency response services within the community.

2. Background

Emergency service providers including Fire Departments (such as Shubenacadie Volunteer Fire Department), Ground Search and Rescue teams, and other volunteer responders are facing increasing challenges related to recruitment, retention, training, equipment, and operational funding. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the increasing complexity of emergency response, rural depopulation, and financial strain on municipalities.

In response, the Province of Nova Scotia has proposed the creation of an Emergency Provider Fund, designed to provide consistent and sustainable financial support to local emergency service organizations.

3. Discussion

The proposed Emergency Provider Fund would directly benefit the Shubenacadie Volunteer Fire Department by:

- Supporting the purchase and maintenance of essential equipment.
- Relieving some of the financial burden currently placed on municipalities volunteer fire departments.

Supporting this initiative aligns with the East Hants Municipality's public safety priorities and would benefit Shubenacadie Fire Department by ensuring they have the necessary resources and equipment to operate safely and effectively.

4. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications to East Hants Municipality at this time. However, should the fund be implemented, the Shubenacadie Fire Department could become eligible for provincial funding support, potentially reducing the need for municipal subsidies or fundraising for critical equipment and operations.

5. Conclusion

The Nova Scotia Emergency Provider Fund presents an opportunity to strengthen local emergency services and improve public safety. Staff recommend that Council endorse the request and communicate this support to relevant Provincial authorities.

Suggested Motion:

Move that Council endorse the application from the Shubenacadie Volunteer Fire Department under the Nova Scotia Emergency Provider Fund (EPF) to purchase a trailer.