



Subject: *Scale Replacement Project at Waste Management Centre*
(Capital Project #14-016)
To: Executive Committee
Date Prepared: August 5, 2026
Prepared by: Andrea Trask, Manager of Solid Waste
Approved by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations
Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Summary

This project was approved under the 2026-2027 Capital Budget for \$130,000. The project includes the removal and replacement of the incoming scale. Staff have been working on the project scope and have determined the approved budget will not be sufficient given the extensive geotechnical work that has been determined as an additional scope need.

Financial Impact Statement

Budget for this project is now estimated at \$229,000.

Project funds are scheduled to come from Waste Management Heavy Equipment Reserves (G500). As of March 31, the balance is \$882,185, with the original budget being pulled from that amount.

Recommendation

For Council to approve an increase budget in the replacement of the Waste Management Centre incoming scale.

Recommended Motion

Move that Council approve the addition of \$99,000 towards Capital Project 14-016 - Scale Replacement, with a total budget of \$229,000 funded from Waste Management Heavy Equipment Reserve (G500).

Background

The scale scheduled for replacement was installed in 1998, making this project a long-term investment to our operations (*Sustainable Infrastructure*). Budgets were prepared over the winter and significant changes in market conditions, and conditions of the scale have impacted the approved budget.

A project of this scope is estimated at 36 weeks, from procurement to final installation.

Discussion

In preparation for the budget, Staff contacted other municipal facilities that had replaced scales of similar size/scope over the last 2-3 years, as intended for the Waste Management Centre. Those project costs averaged to \$120,000 with Staff adding a \$10,000 contingency. This was the basis of our budget request.

PROJECT FINDINGS

With the approval of budget, the project engineer was asked to review the project for procurement preparation scope including:

- (a) review the two main scale manufactures known, and update information available on costing (researched; no direct outreach)
- (b) complete an onsite evaluation of the current scale setup
- (c) outline any project challenges or risks with the Manager, highlighting any potential project scope changes

The following are recommendations from the project engineer based on work to-date.

1. Preference should be given to a manufacturer that is compatible with, or identical to, the remaining scale. This would help reduce maintenance and operational impacts by maintaining consistency across the equipment.
2. Recommendation for geotechnical and foundation engineering, and then upgraded foundation installation. There is a change in size of scale (incoming would be larger), there is deteriorating conditions under the scale (foundation) - no reuse available, adding cost to the project.
3. Scale pricing falls within the budget, but given the current global steel prices, inflation and freight/shipping costs, this takes the bulk of the budget intended for the full project.

UPDATED BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on the review by the project engineer and current procurement climates, it is estimated that this budget would come to \$229,000 (\$99,000 over-budget) with these estimates falling in the higher range of calculations. These have not been tested in the market.

Item	Estimated Cost
Physical Scale	\$120,000
Geotechnical and Foundation Engineering	\$20,000
Foundation Installation	\$35,000
Crane services for removal and installation of scales	\$10,000
Electrical scope and associated components	\$10,000
Final strain/load testing	\$5,000
Sub-Total	\$200,000
Contingency (10%)	\$20,000
Sub-Total with Contingency	\$220,000
Total including Net HST (1.038574)	\$228,486.28

Options for Consideration

Staff seek direction from Council on next steps for this Capital Project #14-016 project. The following outlines options available and implications of each.

PROJECT OPTIONS

1. Council directs Staff to proceed with procurement and design this fall.
 - The project would continue to proceed, with an expected completion Spring 2027.
 - Procurement and design processes would begin immediately.
 - Staff would report the updated budget expectation for 2027/28 capital budget.
 - The scale would be closed for the winter as of January 1 (pending weather), and remain closed until the project is completed.
 - Foundation work would begin as soon as possible spring 2027.
 - Construction would be approx. 8 weeks
 - This would see the scale offline for approx. 5-months. (volume is ~7500 vehicles)
 - Funds would come from Waste Management Heavy Equipment Reserves.
 - **This Option is outlined as the Recommendation and Recommended Motion provided.**
2. Council directs Staff to update capital budget for the project for 2027/28.
 - The scale would be closed for the winter as of January 1 (pending weather).
 - The scale would reopen April 1 (pending weather).

- Pending approval from Council on the updated budget for 2027/28 the project work would begin in March 2027 (procurement/design).
- The full scope of the project would run 36 weeks/9-months.
- This would see the scale offline for approx. 11 months. (volume is ~ 19,000 vehicles)

3. Cancel the project.

- The scale would be closed annually for the winter as of January 1 (pending weather).
- The scale would reopen April 1 (pending weather).
- Operation of the scale continues as is, with repairs completed as necessary.
- This would impact ongoing logistics for serving customers due to this constraint.