



STAFF REPORT

TO: Municipal Council
FROM: Erin Hartley, Director of Corporate Services
APPROVED BY: Trudy Payne, CAO
DATE: May 25, 2022
SUBJECT: Fire Fighter Training Funding Request

ORIGIN

Request from Fire Advisory Committee meeting on May 10, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Be it resolved that the Fire Advisory Committee recommend to Council of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne assist in the training cost for level one internal and/or external courses by reimbursing departments for a maximum of \$14,000 (estimated \$2,000 per municipal fire department) in 2022-23.

BACKGROUND

There are seven municipal fire departments in the Municipality of Shelburne. All departments have expressed need for training their members. Training funding earmarked in municipal fire department's operating grants is \$600 per department annually. The approximate cost for obtaining level one internal training is \$1,850 per person and can take years to complete as courses are usually offered in Halifax and travel can be a deterrent for our volunteers.

DISCUSSION

Level one training is being offered at the Shelburne Fire Hall this Spring. This is an opportunity for our local departments to take components of the level one training locally; however, funding this training is a concern for departments.

It has been the Municipality's position that they would like to see more municipal volunteer fire fighters increase their training and this is a great opportunity to partner with the local departments to make this happen. A total of \$14,000 is being requested (approximately \$2,000 per department) which would cover the approximate cost of one fire fighter per department to obtain internal level one training. This would be ideal, however it would most likely be used for multiple fire fighters to obtain courses to go toward their level one training. Full training and certification can take

years and is a huge commitment by these volunteers. This funding, if approved, would not cover the estimated cost for the courses, but would certainly assist the departments in making the financial contribution manageable while increasing their training levels. The fire departments would be contributing to these courses as well using their own funds to cover the difference. Some departments have three or four members willing and eager to take these courses.

It is anticipated that if approved by council, the reimbursement for these funds would follow the same process as our capital grant funding policy, where copies of the invoice and proof of payment for the courses would be required before repaid to the departments. Staff would like to use \$2,000 per department as a guideline to ensure all departments have the same opportunity to use these funds; however, staff would like the flexibility to reallocate funds if a particular department does not take part.

Increased training for our volunteer fire fighters, at any level, is of benefit to the fire departments, the community and the Municipality. Having this training offered locally is a further advantage and opportunity.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This would be an unbudgeted expense.