

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MAY 2, 2005

COURT SERVICES REVIEW

Recommendation

The City Manager recommends:

1. That \$19,637.50 be allocated to pay the City of Vaughan portion of the cost of the review, and;
2. That the City Manager be approved to be the City of Vaughan representative on the Review Steering Committee, and;
3. That the City Manager be authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding committing Vaughan to the review process.

Economic Impacts

This report has a \$19,637.50 impact on the 2005 Operating Budget. The funds will be allocated from the Professional Fees budget from the City Manager and Legal.

Purpose

This report is to provide information on a York Regional Courts review process and to provide the City Manager with authority to act on behalf of the City.

Background - Analysis and Options

The operational efficiency of the York Regional Courts has been the subject of much discussion at several levels over the past year. These discussions culminated with the area Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) agreeing to a suggestion that a comprehensive independent review be conducted of the court system with the cost being shared by the Region and area municipalities.

The cost of this review is estimated at \$125,000. The Region will pay \$62,500. or 50% of the cost. The remaining municipalities will be established based on their respective 2005 Regional Tax Levy. This results in the City of Vaughan's share being estimated at \$19,637.50 or 15.7%. The City is being asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the costs.

It is anticipated that the review will take approximately six months to complete.

A Steering Committee has been established to oversee the review. Area CAO's have agreed to form the nucleus of the Steering Committee. It is recommended that the City Manager be Vaughan's representative, with his alternate being the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services.

The Town of Markham has prepared the RFP on behalf of the Regional and area municipalities and the document was released on April 22, 2005. On May 11, 2005, a pre-bidder information meeting is scheduled. The RFP bid will close on May 20, 2005. The draft RFP has been reviewed by the City of Vaughan Purchasing Department and while not all aspects are common to Vaughan's policy, the RFP has been developed based on the Town of Markham's policies, and that municipality is taking carriage of the process.

An independent review is required in order to adequately address the complaints about the Courts administration processes and to examine the Intermunicipal Agreement signed in 1999 with a focus on the revenue sharing component.

Vaughan Vision

This report is in keeping with the Service Excellence provisions of the Vaughan Vision.

The necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is appropriate for Vaughan to take a major role in the review of York Region Courts and as such the City Manager should be approved as the representative on the Steering Committee and also be authorized to sign the cost sharing Memorandum of Understanding identifying Vaughan's share of the costs at \$19,637.50.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

Tony Thompson
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Respectfully submitted,

Michael DeAngelis
City Manager