

**VAUGHAN FIRE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

**Recommendation**

The Director of Reserves & Investments recommends:

1. That the input from the public be received and taken into consideration by Council;
2. That the approval be granted in the amount of \$75,000 to retain consulting services to address the options for the provision of fire communication services; and,
3. That the source of funding for this work be the Fire Reserve Fund.

**Economic Impact**

The financial impact is unknown and is dependant on the results of the consultant's final report.

**Purpose**

To receive public input pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, Section 291(1) of the municipality's intention to amend the Capital Budget to include funding in 2005 to obtain consulting services to assess options for the provision of fire communication services.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council at its meeting of May 9, 2005 adopted the following:

1. That staff proceed with the required notification for an amendment to the 2005 Capital Budget with respect to the \$75,000 cost of retention of consulting services addressing the fire communication service solution.

As directed by Council, notice of the amendment to the capital budget was published May 12, 2005. As of the date of printing the Agenda, the City's Clerks department has not received any communication or written submission from the public in this matter.

The costs to retention consulting services is estimated at \$75,000. The proposed source of funding for this work is the Fire Reserve Fund.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Conclusion**

Any input from the Public should be taken into consideration by Council and that the approval in the amount of \$75,000 be granted for the retention of consulting services addressing the fire communications service solution.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Council Extract May 9, 2005 Vaughan Fire Communications Service

Respectfully submitted,

Ferrucio Castellarin, CGA  
Director of Reserves and Investments

**EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2005**

Item 1, Report No. 29, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on May 9, 2005.

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**VAUGHAN FIRE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Fire Chief, dated May 2, 2005:

**Recommendation**

The Fire Chief in consultation with the City Manager, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Capital Reserves and Investments, recommends:

1. That staff undertake to assess the feasibility of various options for the provision of fire communication services;
2. That appropriate external assistance as necessary be retained; not to exceed \$75,000 as provided from the Fire Reserve Fund;
3. That staff proceed with the required notification for an amendment to the 2005 Capital Budget with respect to the \$75,000 cost of retention of consulting services addressing the fire communications service solution;
4. That the Vaughan Professional Fire Fighters Association be advised of these undertakings and further advised that they will be consulted at the appropriate times and;
5. That the Region of York be advised accordingly.

**Economic Impact**

The consolidated fire communications project was intended to avoid the future cost increases anticipated in the continued operation of a stand-alone Vaughan Fire Communications Centre. All of the study costs had been absorbed by the Region, with implementation costs proposed to be 'front-ended' by the Region and amortized to the users over future years. Now that consolidation will not be pursued any further at this time, Vaughan will have to front its own costs of determining the best business case and technology solution for Vaughan's fire communication services.

**Purpose**

The Special Committee of the Whole on April 11, 2005 recommended that staff "...provide a report...respecting the status, options and recommendations, for a City of Vaughan fire dispatch."

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council had previously directed staff to investigate the possibility of consolidating fire communication services with several other municipalities in conjunction with the Region of York. During that process it was determined that an amendment to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* (FPPA) would be required. Subsequently the Government of Ontario advised that "the government does not view this as a general legislative priority, nor does it view it as appropriate to make a general change to this legislation to accommodate a single situation."

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### EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2005

#### Item 1, CW Report No. 29 – Page 2

It is understood that staff of the Region of York will be advising Regional Council accordingly and that it is anticipated that the Region of York will not pursue the consolidation of fire communications any further at this time.

The City Manager has been advised by the respective CAOs of Richmond Hill and Markham, that they are open to discussions regarding the provision of fire communication services to any of the seven municipalities previously engaged in the proposed Regional Fire Communications project.

It has been suggested to staff to discuss possibilities with Richmond Hill and Markham fire departments and the Fire Chief thinks there are three options that may be considered:

1. Investigate the feasibility of acquiring complete fire communication services from the Town of Richmond Hill Fire Department;
2. Investigate the feasibility of acquiring complete fire communication services from the Town of Markham Fire Department;
3. Investigate the feasibility of acquiring computer-aided dispatch (CAD) technology services from the Town of Markham Fire Department, while continuing the operation of the Vaughan Fire Communications Centre and employ of our current staff.

To assist in this endeavour, it is also recommended that internal resources be assigned where available and that funding not to exceed \$75,000 for external consulting resources be provided as funded from the Fire Reserve Fund as an amendment to the 2005 Capital Budget, such:

1. That McCauley-Nichols (the consultant engaged by the Region to develop the 7-member business case) be retained by the City of Vaughan to modify the business case to reflect the new options for the City of Vaughan.
2. That a technical consultant be engaged as necessary to assist City of Vaughan Information Technology Management Department staff, as determined by the Chief Information Officer, in the determination of specific hardware/ software/ communication links, etc., to achieve the various options.
3. That internal legal and human resource services and external service, as determined by the Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services, be provided to assist with the governance and labour relations aspects of the options.

#### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report recommends a change from the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been allocated.

#### Conclusion

Given the Government of Ontario will not amend the FPPA and the Region of York therefore will no longer pursue or fund the consolidation of fire communication services for the interested municipalities, the City of Vaughan must now consider its options and refine its own business cases to determine the preferred solution and implementation of fire communication services, including significant technological solutions for the future.

Finance has advised that should Council concur with staff recommendations, then this would be considered as an amendment to the Capital Budget. Pursuant to the Municipal Act Sec 291 (1)

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before amending a budget, a municipality shall give notice of its intention to amend a budget at a Council meeting. In accordance with By-Law #394-2002, notice of an intention to adopt an amendment at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Council meeting at which this proposed amendment is to be considered. Therefore, if Council increases the expenditures to the Capital Budget, staff is directed to provide notice of an intention to adopt an amendment to the Capital Budget pursuant to By-Law #394-2002.

**Attachments**

1. Letter from Michael Fenn, Deputy Minister of Community Safety
2. Letter from C. D. Weldon, CAO, Town of Richmond Hill

**Report prepared by:**

Glenn Duncan, Deputy Fire Chief, extension 8206  
John Sutton, Fire Chief, extension 8205

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)