



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authority to Dispose of End-of-Life, Surplus Fire Fighting Equipment

Date:	March 31, 2014
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Fire Chief and General Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	p:\2014\ClusterB\FIR\cd140005

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council approval to authorize the Fire Chief to dispose of, through donation, end-of-life, surplus firefighting equipment, which no longer meets the guidelines applicable to Toronto Fire Services operations. This surplus inventory consists of bunker suits, helmets and fire fighting boots, and has no residual value in North America.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Guideline 1851 regulates the lifecycle of the Toronto Fire Services' personal protective equipment, such as bunker suits, helmets and fire fighting boots. Under NFPA Guideline 1851, the Toronto Fire Services like all other fire services which follow NFPA guidelines, are required to retire personal protective equipment from service no more than ten years from the date of manufacture.

The surplus inventory of personal protective equipment has no residual value in North America. However, the City often receives requests from non-profit groups, agencies or municipal officials in other jurisdictions not subject to NFPA Guideline 1851 for donations of surplus personal protective equipment. Many fire services in developing countries have trained staff, but may have very limited resources to provide personal protective equipment to fire fighters.

The City of Toronto will not be responsible for any costs associated with any donation of used or end-of-life firefighting equipment. Recipients of these donations will be responsible for all costs and liabilities associated with the donation and transporting of the items.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fire Chief and General Manager recommends that:

1. City Council grant the Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire Services, the authority to declare personal protective equipment utilized by Toronto Fire Services as surplus to present and future divisional and corporate requirements, and to dispose of the personal protective equipment by donation where: the Fire Chief is satisfied the surplus personal protective equipment has no appreciable resale value; the personal protective equipment does not meet the applicable North American standard; the recipient is not governed by North American standards; the recipient undertakes to bear all costs and liabilities associated with the donation, and executes indemnity and waiver agreements with the City, such agreements to be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
2. City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager, Fire Services to execute indemnity and waiver agreements with the appropriate officials receiving the donated items, on behalf of the City, such agreements to be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with the approval of this report. All costs and liabilities associated with the donation of any end-of-life equipment will be borne by the recipient of the donated gear. The donated equipment has no residual value in North America.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at their meeting held August 26, 2010 adopted the August 19, 2010 supplementary report from the Fire Chief and General Manager and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer (EX46.45a) authorizing the donation of obsolete firefighting equipment having no resale value in North America, to the Fire Services for the Municipality of Plovdiv, to Bulgaria.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=3292>

COMMENTS

Personal Protective equipment utilized by Toronto Fire Services is regulated by the National Fire Protections Association (NFPA) Guideline 1851 – Standard on Selection, care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity

Firefighting. This standard requires that personal protective equipment be retired from service no more than ten years from the date of manufacture.

Each Toronto Fire Services' firefighter is assigned two sets of personal protective equipment, a set of which is purchased in bulk every five years. When new gear is distributed, each firefighter's five year old gear becomes their spare gear, and the previously spare gear is returned to be inventoried, declared surplus and disposed of. Any gear that may still meet the requirements of NFPA 1851 is retained by the Fire Services for use in training exercises and as emergency backup.

As a result of this process, Toronto Fire Services (TFS) currently has end-of-life firefighting equipment that has no resale or residual value in North America. This equipment is currently stored at the Toronto Fire Academy.

End-of-life firefighting protective clothing would normally be determined to be surplus to the City's needs and discarded. Even with the refurbishment of the equipment, it would still not meet the current North American standards (NFPA1851). However, such surplus equipment is a valuable alternative for fire departments in other jurisdictions which have limited or no protective clothing. TFS receives numerous requests from many countries whose firefighting equipment is not subject to the same standards as North American departments. The donation of Toronto's end-of-life equipment will improve the safety of firefighters and citizens in these areas.

Section 195-17 of Chapter 195, Purchasing of the Municipal Code, requires that surplus materials or equipment must be disposed of by public auction or solicitation, by way of trade-in at fair market value as part of the acquisition of other materials or equipment, or as Council may otherwise authorize. Therefore donation of equipment requires Council authorization.

TFS has previously donated end-of-life firefighting protective gear and equipment to fire services in several locations, including Jamaica, Cuba, and Bulgaria. In each case, a separate report to Council was required to approve the donation. This report requests City Council provide the Fire Chief with the standing authority to designate "end-of-life" or obsolete equipment as surplus and to dispose of the surplus equipment through donations.

Where donation recipients agree to be responsible for all costs and liabilities associated with the donation and transporting of the items, TFS can provide donations of bunker suits, helmets and fire fighting boots. The indemnity and waiver agreements will have the recipients release and hold the City harmless from any claims made by them or others in relation to the donated equipment. Recipients of these donations would be responsible for all costs and liabilities associated with the donation and transporting of the items. Requests for receipt of donations will be logged, and will be considered on a first come, first served, basis at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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