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2015 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

2015 Funding related to Report EX37.1, Clause 228 entitled "2014 Capital and Operating Budgets"

Issue/Background:

- At its meeting of February 4, 2015, the Budget Committee requested the Deputy City Manager, Cluster B to provide a briefing note on whether funds are included in Toronto Fire Services' 2015 Recommended Operating Budget for the implementation of Clause 228, Report EX37.1 entitled "2014 Capital and Operating Budget" adopted by City Council on January 29 and 30, 2014.
- Clause 228 of Report EX37.1, requested the Fire Chief provide a report to the April 17, 2014 Community Development and Recreation Committee (CDRC) meeting on items including the Master Fire Plan, Fire Prevention and Education staffing, the new technologies recommended in the Fire Underwriters Study report, a further evaluation of the consolidation of Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services communications centres, and an evaluation of the 24-hour shift model.
- Toronto Fire Services (TFS) reported to CDRC as directed on April 17, 2014. Discussion of the item was deferred to the May 22, 2014 meeting (item CD29.7) where the item was adopted. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD29.7>

Key Points:

Clause 228 consisted of five requests. TFS responses to the current request for information are noted below.

Clause 228, Part (a)

Expedite the update of the Fire Master Plan, previously scheduled for 2012, in conjunction with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the General Manager, Transportation Services and other senior City staff and that a broad public engagement be included in the process and include full consideration to ongoing and proposed development and intensification within the City;

TFS Response

- The Master Fire Plan (MFP) will be tabled at the March 23, 2015 CDRC meeting.
- The MFP was developed in consultation with numerous City divisions as well as public and stakeholder engagement.

- To inform the MFP, four public consultations were conducted across the city in November 2014. In total 60 attendees participated, of which were a mix of residents, firefighters, executive members of the Toronto Professional Firefighters Association, residential association members, and Councillors/Councillors-Elect.
- The sessions were promoted through the TFS website and social media channels, the City's Civic Engagement website and social media channels, posters in community centres and public libraries, a Fire Chief's Communiqué sent to all staff, letters to all Councillors and Councillors-Elect, letters to Association Executives, a listing in the City's Monday Morning News, email correspondence to 33 community organizations (including residential associations) and Business Improvement Area (BIA) Executives.
- TFS created an email address to allow for ongoing consultation with the public. TFSTalk@Toronto.ca will be used for all future TFS planning initiatives. To-date several engagements have occurred through this email address and all ideas and feedback have been considered as part of the 2015-2019 planning process.

Clause 228, Part (b)

Develop the components, staffing and implementation plan for the enhanced Fire Prevention and Education program;

TFS Response

- In 2013, City Council approved the addition of 15 fire inspectors for the creation of a risk-based inspection / pre-plan task force. Since the implementation of the risk-based inspection / pre-plan program, TFS has completed 2,202 risk based inspections, and 182 pre-fire plans, with an additional 49 pre-fire plans currently in progress.
- In 2014, the Province of Ontario passed legislative requirements for vulnerable occupancies that increased the requirements placed upon the TFS Fire Prevention Division. The Vulnerable Occupancy Regulations required the completion of Fire Code inspections, Fire Safety Plan reviews and the completion of simulated fire drills for all 270 vulnerable occupancy facilities known to be in operation within the City of Toronto. These requirements are ongoing for any newly identified vulnerable occupancies on a go-forward basis.
- In order to both maintain the current Fire Underwriters' Survey (FUS) Commercial Class 3 rating within Toronto, and in order to progress to a FUS Commercial Class 2 rating, Council approved the addition of 25 Fire Prevention personnel in 2014. These staff were hired in 2014 and graduated from mandatory training on December 19, 2014, and are now deployed across the City, actively engaged in Fire Code Inspections.
- An additional 25 Fire Prevention personnel are included in the 2015 TFS budget request and are scheduled to be recruited in late August 2015, so as to not conflict with the 2015 Pan-AM and Para-Pan Games, which will place high demand on TFS resources.
- Moving forward, an additional 25 Fire Prevention staff will be requested in each of the 2016 and 2017 budget years, in accordance with the FUS recommendations.

- FUS recommended these 100 additional Fire Prevention staff in order to enable TFS to provide a more robust routine inspection program. This review considered the number of occupancies in the city and the approximate time needed to complete an inspection for each occupancy type, based on historical TFS data. According to FUS, there are approximately 318,000 commercial buildings and occupancies in Toronto and the frequency of routine inspections of these properties impacts in the City's overall Commercial insurance rating.
- The additional 100 Fire Prevention, once fully implemented, are expected to facilitate a scheduled inspection program based on the targets identified by FUS.

Clause 228, Part (c)

Prepare an implementation plan for the new technologies recommended in the Fire Underwriters Study report (dynamic staging), predictive modelling, dynamic modelling, live interactive GPS, pre-emptive traffic light signalling and traffic pre-emption, including a timeline for full implementation as well as predicted improvements in response times, deployment, resource allocation and equipment and other resource requirements;

TFS Response

- The 2015 Recommended Capital Budget for TFS includes funding for enhancements to the Computer Aided Dispatch system and the Emergency Communication System; the purchase of 150 thermal imaging cameras; the replacement of the emergency phone system to support the migration from a circuit switched technology to an Internet Protocol (IP) platform; the implementation of predictive modelling/dynamic staging software; and, the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus.

Clause 228, Part (d)

Further evaluate the consolidation of Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services communications centres as well as other operational and administrative opportunities directed by City Council in July 2013;

TFS Response

- At its meeting of August 25, 2014, City Council adopted the City Manager's report, "A Consolidated Toronto Emergency Medical Service and Toronto Fire Service Communications Centre" which authorized a series of actions to set the course for consolidation of the TFS and Toronto Paramedic Services (TPS) communications centres.
- These actions included the confirmation of future provincial funding, amendments to provincial legislation and the updates and revisions to current collective agreements.
- Council also requested that the City Manager bring forward an implementation plan in 2015 for a consolidated TFS and TPS communications centre and technology and training investments based on a detailed analysis and cost estimates related to facilities.
- See <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX44.10>.

- A Working Group composed of staff from TFS, TPS and the City Manager's Office has been convened and efforts to respond to Council's direction are currently underway.

Clause 228, Part (e)

Evaluate the benefits, limitations, risks and collective agreement impacts of alternatives to the current 24-hour shift model.

TFS Response

- This pertains to employee and labour relations matters related to collective bargaining. The City of Toronto has commenced collective bargaining with the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association. The Employee and Labour Relations Committee has approved the City's non-monetary mandate. The monetary mandate was considered and confirmed at its meeting on February 9, 2015.

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