



REPORT FOR ACTION

Staff Complement in Legal Services - Temporary Positions for Expropriations Work

Date: June 1, 2017

To: Budget Committee, Executive Committee

From: City Solicitor

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain authority from City Council to increase the staff complement in Legal Services by two positions for a period of two years. The positions would be in the Planning and Administrative Law practice group and would consist of a lawyer and a Law Clerk. They would carry out expropriation work arising out of Toronto Transit Commission capital projects and be funded by the TTC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Solicitor recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to increase the staff complement in Legal Services by two positions, consisting of a lawyer (Solicitor 1) and a Law Clerk, on a temporary two year basis, to carry out expropriation work arising out of Toronto Transit Commission ("TTC") capital projects, the cost of such positions to be funded by the TTC 2017 Approved Capital Budget (Project CTT028 Easier Access).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this report will authorize an adjustment of the 2017 Council Approved Operating Budget for Legal Services in the amount of \$153,500 gross and zero net expenditure, for the 6-month impact of addition of 2 temporary positions. These positions will be fully funded by the TTC 2017 Approved Capital Budget (Project CTT028 Easier Access) for the need of expropriation of land, or an interest in land.

The cost to fund the solicitor position (Solicitor 1) on an annual basis is \$217,000 which covers salary and benefits. The cost to fund the Law Clerk position on an annual basis is \$90,000 which covers salary and benefits.

Staff Complement in Legal Services - Temporary Positions for Expropriation Work

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history on this matter.

COMMENTS

TTC Capital Projects, such as the Leslie Street Connection and the TTC Easier Access/2nd Exit Projects, often require the expropriation of land, or an interest in land, in order to construct the project. Expropriated lands are held in the name of the City on behalf of the TTC. Expropriation work arising out of these capital projects has risen over the last several years. It is more cost effective for the TTC to have the expropriation work done in-house in Legal Services than to have the work done by an outside law firm. The amount of expropriation work has risen to the point where an additional Solicitor and a Law Clerk are required in the Planning and Administrative Tribunal Law practice group.

In order to attract and hire appropriately skill staff, the TTC has agreed to fund the two positions for a two year period out of its budgets for the approved Capital Projects.

CONTACT

Brian Haley, Director, Planning and Administrative Tribunal Law, Legal Services, 26th Floor, Metro Hall, 416 392-6757, Brian.Haley@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Wendy Walberg
City Solicitor

ATTACHMENTS

None