



REPORT FOR ACTION

Request for Authority to Enter Into Agreements for Operational and Funding Support for HUSAR and CBRNE Programs

Date: February 20, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report requests City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, to negotiate and enter into agreements with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) for the continued funding support of Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) teams.

Since 2002, the City of Toronto has been in receipt of funding provided by the OFMEM on an annual basis for the provision of both HUSAR and CBRNE teams. These teams are comprised of specially trained emergency responders, all of whom are employed by or contracted to provide services to the City. The City's HUSAR and CBRNE teams are also available to respond to large-scale or complex natural or human-caused incidents anywhere in Ontario in support of the Provincial Mutual Aid Plan on a cost-recovery basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, to negotiate and enter into agreements with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) for the establishment, operation of, and funding support for specialized response teams including Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) teams ("HUSAR/CBRNE teams") in Toronto and throughout the Province of Ontario, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

2. City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services to execute and submit on behalf of the City any documents related to Provincial funding support for the City's HUSAR/CBRNE teams, required by the agreement with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no immediate financial impact as a result of the recommendations in this report. The Toronto Fire Services' operating budget includes the planned expenditures and the offsetting grant revenue in the estimates.

Since 2002, the City of Toronto has been in receipt of \$300,000 for HUSAR and \$100,000 for CBRNE, provided by the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM), on an annual basis.

In 2019 and beyond, the funding is expected to increase to \$560,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of April 16, 17 and 18, 2002, City Council adopted a report authorizing the City of Toronto to enter into agreements with the Province of Ontario to fund, operate, a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team (HUSAR) to provide specialized response support for emergencies in Toronto and throughout Ontario.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2002/agendas/council/cc020416/cms3rpt/cl003.pdf>

At its meeting of September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, City Council adopted a report authorizing staff to enter into an agreement for funding for the operation of a specialized response team to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies (CBRNE) in Toronto and throughout the Province of Ontario.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/cms6rpt/cl005.pdf>

At its meeting of February 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2007, City Council adopted a report authorizing staff to negotiate and enter into an agreement with appropriate Ontario Provincial Ministry and Federal departments to deploy the City's Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team (HUSAR) outside Ontario, on specific terms and for the Fire Chief to authorize the international deployment of the HUSAR team, where approved by both Canadian and international authorities.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-588.pdf>

At its meeting on May 11 and 12, 2010, City Council adopted a report authorizing the Fire Chief and General Manager to participate in Federal training opportunities in relation to Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) and providing delegated authority to the Fire Chief and General Manager to negotiate and enter into any agreements, in a form which is satisfactory to the City Solicitor, as required for the

Federal Department of Public Safety to provide reimbursement to the City for all costs associated with the City's participation in Federal training opportunities related to HUSAR, and that the Fire Chief be authorized to execute any required agreements or related documents on behalf of the City.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2010.CD32.7>

COMMENTS

Since 2002, the City has operated a program of specialized response teams including both HUSAR and CBRNE teams ("HUSAR/CBRNE teams") through partnership with the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM). The City's multi-disciplinary HUSAR/CBRNE teams are comprised of specially trained emergency responders, all of whom are employed by or contracted to provide services to the City. The OFMEM is responsible for facilitating the province-wide activation of municipal HUSAR or CBRNE teams to respond to large-scale or complex natural, or human-caused incidents anywhere in Ontario in support of the Provincial Mutual Aid Plan.

Scope of Agreement

Going forward, there will be two Agreements negotiated (one for HUSAR and one for CBRNE). These agreements will ensure the City can continue to deploy its HUSAR/CBRNE teams anywhere in Ontario, when needed, at the authority of the OFMEM. There will be no changes to the program nor to the operation of the teams. As in previous agreements, the Province of Ontario will reimburse the City for all costs associated with the provincial activation and deployment of its HUSAR/CBRNE teams. These agreements will include a significant amount of additional annual funding for the City, totalling \$560,000 for HUSAR and \$150,000 for CBRNE.

The Agreements enable the City to receive funding support that increases the capacity of its HUSAR/CBRNE teams, thus increasing the City's resources and specialized equipment available to respond to emergencies within the City that fall within the specialized response teams' scope.

The OFMEM has imposed a specific mandate for submission of related funding documents of April 30, 2019. As a result, this report is required to ensure continuity of the City's HUSAR/CBRNE teams, and related Provincial funding arrangements. The continuity of this program will ensure the City's HUSAR/CBRNE teams can effectively respond to HUSAR and/or CBRNE emergencies, both in the City and anywhere in the Province when needed.

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SIGNATURE



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