



SUBJECT: Trench Rescue Services Agreement

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Fire Department

Report Number: BFD 01-17

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 755-05

Date to Committee: February 27, 2017

Date to Council: March 27, 2017

Recommendation:

Receive and file Burlington fire department report BFD-01-17 regarding the trench rescue agreement.

Purpose:

- An Engaging City
- Good Governance

Background and Discussion:

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) and its regulations form the governing legislation by which Fire Departments operate. Within that act 2. (1)(b) states: Every municipality shall provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances. Council is responsible for establishing service levels and then must ensure the Fire Department is provided with appropriate equipment, personnel and training to safely and effectively deliver service.

The municipal act of 2001 provides municipalities with the authority to enter into agreements. The FPPA of 1997 provides the authority for municipalities to enter into a number of agreements specific to the provision/enhancement of fire protection.

On July 4 2016 Council approved a motion to direct the Fire Chief to investigate partnerships for the delivery of fire protection services.

Technical Trench Rescues are a low frequency occurrence with a high level of risk. The tools, equipment and ongoing training required are extensive. The City of Mississauga

has a specialized team and response unit to deal specifically with Technical Trench Rescues.

Following direction from Council, Burlington Fire Chief Tony Bavota engaged Mississauga Fire Chief Tim Beckett in preliminary discussions to formalize an agreement for the City of Mississauga, through Mississauga Fire and Rescue Services, to provide Technical Trench Rescue Services to the City of Burlington.

On November 3rd 2016 Mississauga Fire Rescue Services were called upon to provide mutual aid to the Burlington Fire Department. This gave both Departments an opportunity to utilize the proposed system. A successful rescue was the end result. A formalized agreement will strengthen this professional relationship.

Strategy/process

A Technical Trench Rescue Agreement has been authored. Fire and Legal services for both municipalities have been consulted to produce the final document.

Upon the signing of the agreement the formalized agreement will come into affect.

Financial Matters:

As laid out within the Technical Trench Rescue agreement, costs will only be incurred when the service is provided by Mississauga Fire and Rescue Services. Costs will be recovered through a bill back to the contractor or insurance provider by the Burlington Fire Department.

Total Financial Impact

Financial impact should be cost neutral.

Conclusion:

Forming partnerships to improve the delivery of fire protection services is a sound strategy. A formalized technical trench rescue agreement will improve the public safety, firefighter safety and customer service for the staff and citizens of the City of Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deputy Fire Chief

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Appendices: (if none delete section)

A. Technical Trench Rescue Agreement

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.