



Subject: *Fire Service Funding Policy Review*
To: Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: April 30, 2024
Related Motions: C24(78)
Prepared by: Nathan Hoffmann, Policy Analyst
Approved by: Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

Summary

The 'Fire Service Funding Policy' (the 'Policy') outlines the funding the Municipality of East Hants provides to the East Hants Fire Service. The Policy is being updated to clarify language and include the recent Growth Management Grants for fire services.

Financial Impact Statement

There are no new financial impacts as a result of this Policy change.

Recommendation

That the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommend to Council to adopt the proposed changes to the 'Fire Service Funding Policy'.

Recommended Motion

Regular Meeting of Council (Policy & In-Camera) - June 18, 2024

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council give notice of intent to approve the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated June 18, 2024.

Regular Meeting of Council - June 26, 2024

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council approve the Fire Service Funding Policy as attached to the Executive Committee agenda dated June 18, 2024.

Background

The 'Fire Service Funding Policy' (the 'Policy') manages the administration, eligibility, and distribution of funds for volunteer fire services within the Municipality of East Hants (the 'Municipality'). This Policy was previously reviewed under the Policy Review Program in 2022. Changes to the 'Budget Management Policy' creating the Growth Management Grants required update of the 'Fire Service Funding Policy' to accurately portray the Municipality's funding for the Fire Service. To conduct this Policy Review, the Policy Analyst met with the Director of Corporate Services and the Manager of Finance.

Discussion

This Draft Policy contains two (2) proposed types of updates, housekeeping edits and addition of the Growth Management Grants.

Housekeeping Edits

The Draft version of the Policy has tracked changes representing minor housekeeping updates. These edits do not cause any changes to the intention or meaning of the Policy, but standardize language and seek to make the Policy clearer. The values of certain funds that change yearly were also updated to ensure accuracy.

Addition of Growth Management Grants

Section 10 has been added to the Draft Policy to capture the additional funding provided to the seven (7) rural fire departments as outlined in the 'Budget Management Policy'.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The draft Policy aligns with the Municipal Key Strategy of Corporate Excellence.

Alternatives

Committee may recommend any other policy amendments as appropriate.

Attachments

DRAFT Fire Service Funding Policy - with markup

DRAFT Fire Service Funding Policy - without markup