



Date: October 1, 2024
To: Council
cc:
From: Kim Ramsay, CAO
Re: GORE FIRE EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST

GORE FIRE EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST

Gore Volunteer Fire Department has had their tanker's motor fail. On investigation with their mechanic, it was discovered that other mechanical issues with the vehicle make the (1990) tanker not worth fixing. The department is attempting to find another used truck and requires some financial assistance from Council to help with the unplanned purchase (see Letter from Chief Doug Cox, dated October 1, 2024).

Council has a [Fire Service Funding Policy](#). The relevant sections include:

EMERGENCY FUNDING - BALANCE IN RESERVE: \$99,320

HISTORICAL GRANTS:

In 2017/2018 and 2016/2017 the Emergency Fire Service Funds provided the following grants:

- Maitland Fire - Mold Remediation \$23,979
- Walton Shore - Pumper Replacement \$13,333
- Walton Fire - Roof Repairs \$17,106
- Noel Fire - Pump \$15,811

Policy:

5. Emergency Funding

5.1. Funding for emergency purposes should only be used to assist with emergency situations relating to the provision of firefighting services and should not be used to enhance the emergency response or first responder capabilities of Fire Departments.

5.2. The Municipality reserves the right to consider exceptional circumstances, such as low assessment base, or any other factors deemed important by the Municipality in coming to a decision.

5.3. The Fire Service Emergency Fund will be funded through the annual operating budget. The fund will increase by CPI each year if budget allows. The emergency funding in 2024/2025 is \$15,224.

5.4. Applications for Emergency Funding will be administered upon receipt of a written request from a fire department to the Municipality through the Fire Advisory Committee. The written request must detail the scope of the emergency, the cost to remedy the emergency and all other sources of funding the department has to contribute to the cost to remedy the emergency.

5.5. Fire departments applying for funding must obtain confirmation from the Director of Finance that the department’s most recent financial statements are available and, if not, the department must provide them to the Director. At the discretion of the Director of Finance, the department may also be requested to provide up-to-date interim statements as of the date of the application.

5.6. In considering an application for Emergency Funding, Council shall also consider the department’s ability to service debt.

RURAL FIRE CAPITAL FUNDING - BALANCE IN RESERVE: \$598,427

HISTORICAL GRANTS:

2020/2021	Walton Fire	70,000
2017/2018	KENNETCOOK FIRE	16,000
2017/2018	Walton Fire Fire	40,000
2017/2018	GORE FIRE	4,576
2017/2018	Rawdon Fire	100,000
2017/2018	Noel Fire	82,053
2017/2018	Maitland Fire	100,000
	Total	<u>412,628</u>

Policy:

9. Rural Fire Capital Assistance Fund



9.1. Rural volunteer fire departments of Rawdon, Kennetcook, Noel, Walton, Gore and Maitland are eligible for a Rural Fire Capital Assistance grant. This grant will cover the cost of capital acquisitions related to firefighting including equipment, apparatus and buildings. This grant fund is not intended to fund operational costs, equipment repairs and maintenance or routine building maintenance. Significant upgrades, including roofing, basement additions, or mechanical systems, are eligible to receive funding.

9.2. The fund is application based and must be **supported by majority vote at a duly called meeting of the Fire Service membership**. Grant applications will be reviewed by the Senior Grant Review Committee, with award recommendations coming through consultation with Councillors representing the rural districts of East Hants (Districts 5, 6 & 11). Council will approve all eligible Rural Fire Capital Assistance Fund grants.

There is no annual deadline to apply.

GAS TAX AGREEMENT RURAL ALLOCATION - BALANCE IN RESERVE: \$678,780

Although the Canada Community Building Fund (formerly Gas Tax) provides funding for some fire service investments, new or used apparatus is not eligible. The amount of Gas Tax set aside for rural use could be switched out for contingency dollars, which are permitted to go towards grants for fire departments. The gas tax allocated to rural parts of East Hants could then be used for general rate gas tax projects in the future - i.e. sport, solid waste, tourism, and capacity building.