



*The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa
Staff Report*

Office of the Assistant Director–Protective Services

Prepared For: Regular Council	Report No.: KS-2018-03
Agenda Date: October 9, 2018	File No.: 9.12

Subject

Replacement of existing equipment of breathing apparatus and bottles of the fire department.

Summary of the Recommendation

Approve the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to be included as an approved item in the 2019 Capital Budget.

Summary of the Issues

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are built to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard. The standard for breathing apparatus is updated every 5 years and the Ontario Ministry of Labour now requires that fire departments equip their personnel with breathing apparatus that are within 2 versions of the current standard. Our current apparatus are certified to the 2002 standard and it is not possible to update the current apparatus to the new 2018 standard. Therefore, new SCBA units are required for the Wawa Volunteer Fire Department

List of Stakeholders

- Wawa Volunteer Fire Department
- Ratepayers
- Municipal Council
- Visitors to Wawa

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Name/Signature/Title Cathy Cyr Acting CAO/Deputy Clerk	Supervisor's Name/Signature/Title 

Purpose of Report

This report intends to inform Council about an opportunity to work with a neighbouring community in purchasing new SCBA units. This purchase in partnership will afford the Municipality of Wawa the opportunity for significant cost savings. Due to the timely nature of this opportunity, staff require approval from Municipal Council to go ahead with this purchase before the usual consideration of the 2019 Capital Budget.

Analysis

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units are perhaps the single most important piece of equipment available to firefighters for their health and safety. A SCBA is a device worn by rescue workers, firefighters and others to provide breathable air in an immediately dangerous-to-life, or health, atmosphere. The current SCBA units being used by the Wawa Fire Department personnel is over 16 years of age.

In June of 2018 the Fire Department arranged for different manufacturers of breathing apparatus to do presentations to the firefighters. All the manufacturers provided the firefighters with demo models for a period of time to allow evaluations to be conducted. During the month of July 2018, all firefighters had an opportunity to conduct evaluations of the different manufacturers' SCBA equipment at our training centre. The evaluations were based on scenarios that firefighters would encounter when responding to different incidents or emergencies. The input from firefighters that wear and use the equipment regularly was invaluable in the evaluation process of the SCBA. The firefighters identified the SCBA from MSA as the most suitable system during the evaluation undertaken by the Wawa Volunteer Fire Department.

The SCBA equipment used by firefighters is an integral piece of personal protective equipment. Components to SCBA include a harness, regulator, face piece, and air cylinders that hold compressed breathing air. SCBA equipment helps to protect firefighters from the most extreme environment providing respiratory, heat, face, eye and spinal protection during firefighting activities.

All Fire Department SCBA equipment is currently of the brand "MSA". While there are other brands available, Municipal firefighters have been using MSA equipment for many years, and have trained extensively with it. Familiarity with the functionality, operating features and placement of controls are paramount when suiting up in turn out gear and SCBA for a quick response. The controls for the new SCBA are positioned in the same areas as the previous equipment thus it reduces the potential for confusion in operation of this vital piece of personal protective equipment in extreme situations and environments. The health and safety of responding personnel is always the highest priority.

The new units come with a 15 year warranty and the new SCBA carbon fibre bottles also have a 15 year life expectancy. Advantages of the new units include; increased air supply, complete 15 year warranty, built in telemetry for future blue tooth connection, rechargeable batteries (the only manufacturer to offer this feature) which is also covered by the 15 year warranty and serviceable tunnel straps for complete decontamination. The units are compliant to the 2018 NFPA standard. There is also an update to the standard that will come into effect in 2019. The manufacturer will be providing an upgrade to this new component when it comes into effect. Therefore, these units are upgradeable and can comply with future NFPA requirements.

Financial/Staffing Implications

There are no staffing level increases to the Municipality with this upgrade to 2018 compliant SCBA's. Wawa Fire Department personnel receive annual training on SCBA, as required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. We will move our annual training to when new equipment arrives and then all personnel can participate in the required training without incurring any additional expenses in training.

Participation in a cooperative purchase, initiated by the Sault Ste Marie Fire Services, would be in the Municipal's best financial interest. It will allow the Municipality to take advantage of 2018 prices to be funded in 2019 budget. The Municipality would see a cost savings of 8% on the purchase price.

There is a potential of a price increase in 2019 of up to 15% due to tariffs and trade agreements. The estimated savings would be 20% as opposed to waiting until 2019 to process.

With the new units, maintenance costs will be reduced for replacement parts and batteries. There are less individual components extruding or needed to be added to function as required by the current NFPA Standard. This includes the need for numerous batteries to have components operate properly. The new unit has all components integrated in and around the battery pack. The battery pack is a rechargeable unit.

Policies Affecting Proposal

The Municipal Business Plan emphasizes renewal of key infrastructure and services. SCBA's are a key infrastructure for the Fire Department to operate and provide services to the community. Investing in new SCBA will be cost-efficient and reduce rising maintenance costs on current SCBA's.

The Asset Management Plan does include our current SCBA under Asset ID # ME0005. With a life expectation of 15 years and a replacement cost of \$130,000.00 it would be expected that this would be considered a capital expenditure for the Municipality.

The Asset Management Plan does not indicate a replacement date for this equipment currently. This type of equipment should have a replacement date as it has a life expectancy of 15 years. Not replacing SCBA would put the Wawa Volunteer Fire Department noncompliant with current NFPA regulations.

New SCBA will ensure we are compliant with the following regulations;
NFPA 1981 – 2018 Edition Standard on Open Circuit SCBA for Emergency Services
NFPA 1982 – 2018 Edition Standard on Personnel Alert Safety Systems
MOL Section 21 Guidance Note 4-9 – Respiratory Protection Program

Comments from Relevant Departments/Community and Corporate Partners

None.

Alternatives

- Option 1: Do nothing
NOT RECOMMENDED
SCBA's are aging and could compromise the protection of fire fighters and their health and safety.
- Option 2: Wait until 2019 to request pricing and delivery of SCBA
NOT RECOMMENDED
Waiting to purchase SCBA in 2019, the Municipality will incur an increase in the cost to purchase SCBA.
- Option 3: Utilize funds in reserve to purchase SCBA in 2018.
NOT RECOMMENDED
There is an opportunity to leave funds in reserve for other reasons at a later date.
- Option 4: Council give pre-budget approval for cooperative purchase of SCBA to be funded in 2019 capital expenditure.
RECOMMENDED
Opportunity for cost savings for the Municipality.

Conclusion

The pre-approval of the SCBA upgrade will allow staff to pursue the purchase at a significant advantage for the 2019 Capital Budget. By working with the Sault Ste Marie Fire Department, staff will be able to purchase the required equipment at a significant reduction in cost. This will also ensure that the Wawa Volunteer Fire Department will be able to safely provide services to the community for years to come.

Recommendation

That Council approve the order of 14 - MSA SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) units, 28 - 4500psi (45 minute) cylinders, 23 - face pieces, 1 - Rescuair w/cylinder, 5 - rechargeable battery pack with 1 - charging system, 4 - 6000psi storage cylinders in 2018 to replace the existing breathing apparatus and bottles. And that this is funded from the 2019 Capital Budget.

Attachments

MSA Info Package
Package Quote