



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: December 12, 2022

Subject: SRFIRE.22.11 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement Tara and Chesley Fire Stations, and Paisley Upgrades

Report from: Steve Tiernan, Fire Chief

Appendices: Appendix A – Pricing Analysis

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Provides pre-budget approval for 2023 to support the purchase of 20 complete sets of MSA G1 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with additional conversion parts from AJ Stone at a cost of \$289,362.00 plus HST, allocated as follows:
 - \$140,322.50 for Tara Fire Station's share of SCBA's
 - \$135,629.50 for Chesley Fire Station's share of SCBA's
 - \$13,410.00 for Paisley Fire Station's SCBA upgrade kits; and
 2. That the purchase is financed by the Fire Station's respective Reserve Accounts, 01-0000-2116 Paisley Fire, 01-0000-2117 Chesley Fire and 01-0000-2118 Tara Fire; and
 3. That the report be shared with the Chesley Fire Board for proportionate cost recovery from the Township of Chatsworth.
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Report Summary

To inform Council of the bid process for the replacement of the Tara and Chesley SCBA units (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), and the reasoning behind replacing the units at both stations at the same time.



Background

During the spring of 2022, at the Tara Fire Committee meeting, it was identified that Tara Fire Station 70 would be requiring SCBA units to be replaced in 2023. After reviewing the operational needs of all three (3) stations, it was identified that Chesley Fire Station 90 would also be requiring SCBA replacement in the near future. Paisley Fire Station 80 had completed their SCBA purchase in 2021 with the purchase of MSA G1 breathing apparatus.

An RFP for the replacement of SCBA's was put out on a procurement platform (Biddingo) as well as the Municipal website under Bids and Tenders. At the same time a SCBA purchasing committee was formed with five (5) firefighters representing the three (3) fire stations. This would allow for a fully transparent review of all the vendors submissions, and for the SCBA demonstrations to be presented to the SCBA purchasing committee. In total, five (5) vendors submitted proposals for the SCBA's, with four (4) vendors being invited to demonstrate their product. Due to pricing and the same product being quoted, PPE Solutions was not asked to attend a demonstration.

In July, each vendor attended the Chesley firehall to demonstrate their SCBA units to the Committee and the Fire Chief. Each committee member had the opportunity to try out each of the units presented. Once completed the committee met to review the SCBA Field Evaluation Template findings. After the evaluation was completed, a recommendation was submitted to the Fire Chief.

The insight of the committee members and the time devoted to this proposal review and evaluation was invaluable.

Field Evaluation Results

The committee based their decision on nine (9) different elements of the SCBA's. They are as follows:

Initial Evaluation, Donning-Off Air, On Air and Pre-Entry Test, Harness Security/Chopping, Balance and Reaching, Search and Rescue, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), Cleaning, Overall General Opinion

Vendor Overall Scoring

Draeger 3,120 points

Interspiro 3,123 points

Scott 4,235 points

AJ Stone 4,579 points

Of the four vendors, AJ Stone's MSA G1 was the preferred unit of choice. Although this unit came in with the 2nd highest price, the committee made some valid points as to their decision.

- Standardization between all three fire stations, allowing firefighters to operate at fires with firefighters from other stations as a team. This would also allow for one rescue team (RIT). This was identified in the 2020 Fire Services Master Plan, for the standardization of firefighter equipment.
- 1 rechargeable battery to operate the whole unit as opposed to multiple non-rechargeable batteries being used over the course of 15 years.
- Battery has a usable life of 15 years
- The ability to re-use the 32 high pressure cylinders in the Chesley firehall allowing more fire suppression capability on scene. (Bottles to be divided between all three stations)
- Integrated voice amplification system provided a higher level of safety.
- CGA standard thread (firefighters felt more comfortable with this technology)

With Paisley already having the MSA G1, it was felt that we would be taking a loss on these SCBA's if we had to sell them to go to another product. It was noted in the proposal from AJ Stone, that they would provide an updated warranty to bring them up to a new 15-year warranty. With this, all three stations would expire at the same time, allowing time to plan for the fire departments long term capital plan for replacement in another 15 years.

Looking to the future, the committee also looked at the use of the Universal Emergency Breathing Safety System (UEBSS). This hose configuration allows all firefighters operating inside a hazardous environment the ability to help a firefighter low on air.

The new SCBA's would include this feature, however, the Paisley SCBA's would require updating. Costing for this upgrade is identified in **Appendix A**.

Analysis

As Tara Fire Station 80's SCBA units come to end of life and need replacement, the recommendations of the Fire Master Plan 2020 were reviewed. The Fire Master Plan identified weaknesses within the Municipality's fire service and areas to improve safety. One area was standardization of equipment, under section 14.1 of the Fire Master plan. It was identified that Chesley's SCBA units would be coming up for replacement in the near future. By purchasing Chesley's at the same time as Tara's SCBA units, and Paisley already using the MSA G1's, this initiative would result in the standardization of the Municipality's amalgamated fire services SCBA units. This allows for a more integrated safer work environment for our firefighters.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.6 Modernizing Services

Fire Master Plan 2020, 14.1 Fire Apparatus and Equipment

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

The RFP process was issued in accordance with the terms of the Municipality's procurement process. To secure the current prices, staff require pre-budget approval for 2023. There are sufficient funds available from the fire stations respective reserves:

2116 – Paisley Fire	\$171,817.10
2117 – Chesley Fire	\$192,730.85
2118 – Tara Fire	\$164,616.41

Due to the time sensitivity to secure the current pricing, staff are asking Council to support the initiative, prior to approval being received from the Chesley Fire Board. The report will be presented at the next Chesley Fire Board meeting for discussion, such that capital expenditures for the Chesley SCBA's are cost shared 65.70% by Arran-Elderslie and 34.30% by the Township of Chatsworth, \$89,108.58 and \$46,520.92, respectively, plus HST.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer