



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Information Report

Report From: Steve Tiernan, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: November 27, 2023

Subject: SR.FIRE.23.08 Community Emergency Preparedness Grant

Appendices: None

Report Summary

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Supports the submission of an application to receive funding from the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant for the purchase of a Public Service DJI Matrice 30T drone.

Background

At the November 13, 2023 Council meeting, Council provided direction to Fire Chief Tiernan to investigate the three (3) options regarding the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant and to bring a report back with the option best suited for the Municipal Emergency Management Program.

Analysis

In reviewing historical data on calls and considering our geography and building stock throughout the Municipality, it was decided that the purchase of a drone would assist our emergency services and building department where required.

In speaking with other fire chiefs around the County, it was identified that the DJI Matrice 30T thermal imaging drone was purchased by three (3) Fire Departments and these departments were seeing great success with the drone.

The DJI Matrice 30T drone is a public service drone that has the capability to fly in inclement weather including rain, snow and higher wind speeds than most recreational drones. The drone also has a speaker system which allows communication with missing or injured parties, once located.

Benefits to using the DJI Matrice 30T with enhanced thermal imaging capabilities, include the following.

- Search for missing persons in our rural settings
- Search large areas of rural land at night
- Structural firefighting allowing command to identify hot spots and assist in making tactical decisions
- Ability during large scale incidents, like flooding and large urban fires to live stream live camera footage to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Municipal Office through WIFI capability
- Ability to speak and listen to people trapped during flooding and other emergency events
- Other Use such as assisting the Building Department when needed for doing fly overs

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

6.4 Leading Financial Management

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

There is no financial Implication as the application and if successful the purchase of the drone is through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant. If the Municipality is unsuccessful with the grant, there will be no financial implication in the 2024 Budget. The Fire Department will continue to monitor other possible grant options to purchase the drone where available.

Approved By: Sylvia Kirkwood, CAO