

## Fire Safety Grant Program

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## Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the Fire Safety Grant program from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office and the use of these funds. The Fire Safety Grant program requires the formalization of the grant allocation and the Transfer Payment Agreement through a by-law attached to this agenda.

## Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters.

## Financial Implications

The one-time grant allocation of \$44,400 to Fire Services will support ongoing training needs including registration, administrative programming, technology upgrades and associated costs for virtual sessions as well for providing IT infrastructure services.

## Background

On March 11, 2021, the Government of Ontario announced a one-time grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is intended to provide fire departments with the flexibility to support these challenges. Grant funds will be put towards ongoing training needs including registration, administrative programming, technology upgrades and associated costs for virtual sessions as well for providing IT infrastructure services. These expenditures must be incurred by August 1, 2021.

Greater Sudbury Fire Services will utilize the grant specifically targeting Volunteer Firefighter training needs through the purchase of mobile tablets, online digital curriculum, and related software licenses and access costs. The Volunteer Firefighters will benefit from an enhanced ability to perform blended online and in person training using mobile technology. This investment into Volunteer Training will allow for additional opportunities during the pandemic while protecting Firefighters from the spread of COVID-19.

Greater Sudbury Fire Services operates from 24 fire stations comprised of 4 full time, 19 volunteer, and 1 composite across 3200 square KM. With over 200 Volunteer Firefighters, the use of digital technology will assist in the delivery and support of the training requirements of the Fire Service.