

Request for Decision

Emergency Services Training Academy

Presented To: Community Services
Committee

Presented: Monday, Feb 27, 2012

Report Date Wednesday, Feb 15, 2012

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT the Chief of Emergency Services organize a “Think Tank” involving potential stakeholders to discuss development of a future strategy for the Training Tower, including services and programs; governance, funding and cost sharing arrangements; and facility management; and,

THAT the go forward strategy include the development of a Business Plan for the Community Services Committee’s approval.

Background

The Centre Lionel E. Lalonde Protective Services Centre (CLELC) in Azilda is a 136,000 square foot facility that houses Fire and Emergency Medical Services Administration, Emergency Management and Police Services Property Division, and serves as a training centre for the City’s Protective Services Divisions and other Northern Ontario based organizations, including Ministry of Natural Resources, Cambrian College and Correction Services. The Centre is outfitted with boardrooms, dormitories, fitness centre, kitchen, cafeteria and ample on-site employee and visitor parking. Also located on the grounds is a fire Training Tower.

The Training Tower, which is generally referred to as ALERTech (Academy of Leading Emergency Response Technologies) was originally conceived by the Pre-Entry Level Fire Service Advisory Committee at Cambrian College. The facility was established with the following goals:

- To make training and education that meets Province of Ontario standards accessible to fire fighters and emergency response personnel in Northeastern Ontario by creating partnerships with public and private sector agencies.
- To ensure that training is affordable.
- To offer a variety of training and education on a flexible time table to accommodate the work schedules of emergency response personnel.

Since its construction in 2003, custodial responsibility for the Training Tower has been in a state of flux and as a consequence, its upkeep and condition have lapsed. The facility is currently the responsibility of the City’s Emergency Services Department and the Department is of the following view:

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Tim Beadman
Chief of Emergency Services
Digitally Signed Feb 22, 12

Recommended by the Department

Tim Beadman
Chief of Emergency Services
Digitally Signed Feb 15, 12

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Doug Nadorozny
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Feb 22, 12

- The original goals of the Training Tower are just as relevant today, possibly even more so when one considers the potential client groups which include public and private sector organizations that must train their personnel in emergency response, and educational institutions that are being encouraged to expand their emergency training programs.
- The immediate challenge is to investigate and affirm the potential opportunities and costs to re-energize and expand the Training Tower's use, and to assemble a group of stakeholders having knowledge, resources and vigorous commitment to investigate, develop and market the facility to its full potential.

Given the information provided, it is recommended that the Chief of Emergency Services organize a "Think Tank" involving potential stakeholders to discuss development of a future strategy for the Training Tower, including services and programs; governance, funding and cost sharing arrangements; and facility management. In this regard it may be prudent to consider the Tower in the context of the overall CLELC complex. In time the discussions should include development of a Business Plan for the Community Services Committee's approval. Additionally, it is recommended that the City also undertake a structural assessment to determine the Training Tower's current physical condition and safety for ongoing use as a training facility.