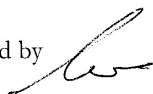


Item No. 11.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
August 17, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

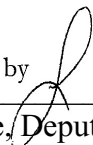
SUBMITTED BY:

Original Signed by



Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by



Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 27, 2010

SUBJECT: Withdrawal from Information & Communication Technologies (ICT)
Reserve Q321

ORIGIN

This report originates with Staff and is a request for approval for a withdrawal from the Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Reserve to fund two initiatives:

- 1 The replacement of 14 non-functioning portable radios for Halifax Regional Police
2. The upgrade and replacement of digital voice recording equipment for the Integrated Emergency Services Communication Center.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Halifax Regional Council authorize the transfer of \$76,165.27, from the Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Reserve (Q321) as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report, to Operating Cost Center N721-6201(Integrated Emergency Services HRP) to fund the following two initiatives:
 - A. \$24,498.86 (including net HST) to fund the replacement of 14 non-functioning portable radios for HRP
 - B. \$ 51,666.41 (including net HST) to fund the replacement and upgrade of the digital voice recording system for the Integrated Emergency Services Communication Center.

BACKGROUND

The revised Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Reserve (Q321) Business Case was approved by Regional Council in February 2010. The reserve was developed to provide a mechanism to capture savings generated by information or communication technology improvements and updates.

DISCUSSION

The portable radios used by our emergency services are used within a harsh environment. Typical life expectancy of radios run is approximately 10 years. The vast majority of the radios are approximately 5 years old and are no longer under original manufacturers warranty.

The fourteen radios are being purchased to replace radios that have either been lost or damaged to the point that making repairs would be cost prohibitive. HRP has policies and procedures in place in order to safe guard HRM assets such as the portable radios. Due to the nature of police work, however, damage and loss does occasionally occur. In the case of the few lost radios, a full investigation has been completed into the circumstances. The replacement radios are approved to operate on the Trunked Mobile Radio System (TMR).

The digital voice recording system being replaced in IES provides recording of incoming emergency and non-emergency phone calls to the center and of the radio traffic of police and fire.

A robust and up to date system is required to assist with immediate recalls of information in ongoing emergency situations and is vital in after action reviews and court procedures. The system being replaced has been in operation for many years and is no longer being sold or supported by the vendor.

Digital voice recording is a mission critical system within the emergency response system of HRM. Both the radio purchase and digital voice recording purchase is being conducted as per HRM Procurement Policy.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is presently no funding allocated in either the operating or capital budgets for these purchases. The ICT Reserve was created to deal with matters such as these. There is sufficient funding within the Reserve to facilitate this requested transfer. The budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary:

Reserve Account No. Q321 - Information and Communications Technologies Reserve

Projected uncommitted balance March 31, 2011	\$ 2,671,044.00
Proposed withdrawal	<u>\$ (76,165.27)</u>
Projected uncommitted balance March 31, 2011	\$ 2,594,878.73

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, this will increase gross operating budget as well as reserve withdrawals.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council may approve the funding transfer for the radio purchase and not the digital voice recording. Failure to replace the digital recording system increases will increase the service life of the present system and would increase the risk of failure.
2. Council may approve the funding transfer for the replacement of the digital recording system and not the radio purchase. This will require HRP to continue to operate with 14 less radios and will hamper large scale events where additional radios may be required.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Superintendent William Moore , Halifax Regional Police, 490-4817

Report Approved by: _____
Deputy Chief Tony Burbridge, Halifax Regional Police, 490-7138

Financial Approval by: _____
Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance, 490-6308

Report Approved by: _____
Chief Frank Beazley, Halifax Regional Police, 490-6500