

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve an increase to Project Account CE010001 – Fire Services Equipment Replacement, in the amount of \$400,000 with funding from Fire Services Operating account F110-6701, Operations – Equipment Purchases.

BACKGROUND

On April 30, 2013, Halifax Regional Council passed the 2013-14 project budget which included the budget for Fire Services Equipment Replacement. This was the first year for equipment purchases such as Hose, Extrication Equipment and Bunker Gear to be allocated in the project budget as they had previously been funded in the operating budget. A transfer of \$350,000 from the operating budget to the project budget was proposed and approved.

DISCUSSION

A review of purchases in the first three quarters of 2013-14 has identified that the bulk of our equipment operating costs meets the project budget criteria and therefore should have been included in the 2013-2014 project budget. In light of this, it is our recommendation to transfer an additional \$400,000 from Fire Services Equipment Purchases operating account to Fire Services Equipment Replacement project account.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This transfer of funding from Operating account F110 - 6701, Operations - Equipment Purchases, is within the 2013-14 budget. Fire Services’ overall Operating budget as of December projections is estimated to be in a deficit position of \$58,000. The budget availability has been confirmed by Finance.

Budget Summary: Project No. CE010001-Fire Services Equipment Replacement

Approved Budget	\$350,000
Plus: Transfer from Operating	<u>\$400,000</u>
Balance	\$750,000

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council may decide not to approve the additional funding for the project budget. This is not the recommended course of action as this is more of a proper accounting exercise and this transfer has no net effect on the combined operating/project budget.

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

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