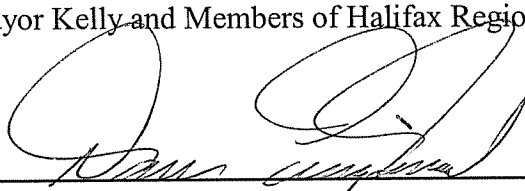


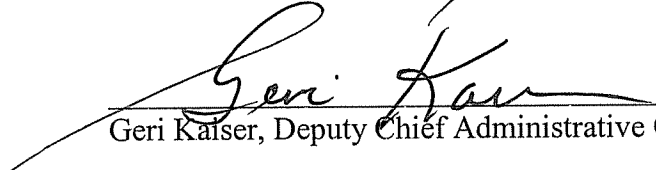
Halifax Regional Council
April 16, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 16, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007/08 Budget Parking Lot Report - Committee of the Whole

Although budget deliberations are not yet complete, this report addresses issues in the Parking Lot to April 12, 2007. If additional items are placed in the Parking Lot, they will be addressed in a separate report.

ORIGIN

- 2007/08 Budget Deliberations

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. Council approve the strategy presented in the Discussion section of this report to address Parking Lot items; and
2. Council approve the changes to the Operating, Reserve, and Capital budgets, as summarized in the Budget Implications section of this report and detailed in Attachment B.

BACKGROUND

During 2007/08 budget deliberations Council has identified a net \$7,771,600 in additional expenditures for consideration for inclusion in the 2007/08 Budget. This amount includes \$6,549,000 for Traffic Improvements, with the balance of \$1,222,600 being focussed on other Capital and Operational areas. Capital represents \$7,249,000 of the total Parking Lot; with the remaining \$522,600 representing the net of Operating increases and decreases in the remainder of the Parking Lot.

DISCUSSION

The tables below outline the parking lot items, the response from staff, and proposed budget implications:

CAPITAL		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
1. \$200,000 for preliminary design of the Bedford Fast Ferry.	Staff will return to Council with a feasibility study. The specifications would come from feasibility work. Any funds invested in the project should be directed at preparing the project for Federal Government consideration. Funding is available in the Strategic Growth Reserve for this initiative.	None.
2. \$250,000 - New ice surface in Dartmouth	Community Development will address this issue as part of a comprehensive master plan focusing on ice surfaces within HRM.	None
3. \$100,000 for new washroom facilities at Admiral DeWolf Park	The design and costing for this washroom facility has not yet been started. \$20,000 will be included for design work and costing with construction to be included in the 2008/09 Capital budget	Increase Capital budget by \$20,000 Funding provided through Crespool

CAPITAL		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
4. \$100,000 for crosswalk countdown signals in conjunction with LED conversion project	The safety benefits of Pedestrian Countdown Signals has not yet been conclusively quantified. As such, the HRM Traffic Authority does not endorse this device. However, due to the cost effectiveness of adding crosswalk countdown signals in conjunction with LED conversions, this project can be included in the 2007/08 budget.	Increase Capital budget by \$100,000. Funding provided through Crespool.
5. Discretionary Crosswalk Control Devices: A. Side-mounted flashers \$135,000 B. Painting Zebra Lines \$44,000	It is recommended that any funding allocation for Side-mounted Flashers be deferred until the results of the joint Provincial and HRM Task Force on Crosswalk Safety is concluded later this fall. It is also recommended that painting zebra lines should be deferred to the 2008/09 fiscal year. The tender has already been issued for crosswalk painting and modifying it at this point will jeopardize our ability to complete all crosswalks this year.	None.

CAPITAL		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
6. Non-Discretionary crosswalk control devices: A. Fluorescent crosswalk signs \$150,000 B. Pedestrian half-signals (\$4M - \$6M) The Parking Lot total assumes \$6M for this initiative.	The Fluorescent crosswalk signals are currently not allowed under Provincial Legislation. HRM could not proceed with the installation of these devices. Pedestrian half-signals are deemed inappropriate measures by the HRM Traffic Authority	None
7. \$120,000 - Traffic lights at Beaverbank Rd and Windsor Junction in Beaverbank	The HRM Traffic Authority selects locations for traffic light installation and recommends installation when warranted.	None
8. \$75,000 - Chocolate Lake Community Centre - CPTED audit recommendations implementation	Many other properties within HRM have a high level of need in this regard. TPW and CD staff will work together to develop a strategy to address issues and recommendations by CPTED audits in future capital budgets.	None
9. \$75,000 - Address issues raised by CPTED audit in Cole Harbour - specifically related to the pedestrian tunnel	Many other properties within HRM have a high level of need in this regard. TPW and CD staff will work together to develop a strategy to address issues and recommendations by CPTED audits in future capital budgets.	None
Total: \$7,249,000		Total: \$120,000

The increase in the Proposed 2007/08 Capital Budget of \$120,000 has been supported through an additional withdrawal from Crespool in the amount of \$120,000.

OPERATING INCREASES		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
10. \$243,000 - Police; amount required to implement all requested initiatives. Savings from the RCMP budgeted estimate of \$106,000 reduce the net amount required to \$137,000.	Several initiatives have been identified as unfunded. Please see Attachment A for detailed recommendations.	Increase Operating budget by \$137,000.
11. \$150,000 - Fire and Emergency Services: Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) - required to maintain federal funding	Staff recommends this funding be included as an increase to the Fire Services operating budget. This funding supports the cost sharing opportunity with the Federal Government.	Increase Operating budget by \$150,000.
12. \$143,800 - Library: Dartmouth North library - To increase operational hours to 50 hrs/week, and include a librarian	This expenditure can be supported by the additional revenue HRM will receive from the Provincial Library Grant. Following the 2007/08 fiscal year it is the expectation that the Library will manage the service delivery within their existing envelope.	Increase Operating budget by \$143,800.

OPERATING INCREASES		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
13. \$225,000 - Greater Halifax Partnership. Additional funding to GHP to accomplish economic development strategies / activities	Staff recommend inclusion of this increment to support the further implementation of the HRM Economic Strategy, contingent upon execution of the service level agreement. There is also \$100,000 one time only funding within Fiscal Services regarding transition costs.	Increase Operating budget by \$225,000.
14. \$25,000 - Additional funding for Public Art programs.	This initiative can be accommodated within the existing Community Development Budget	None.
15. \$50,000 for crosswalk safety education program	Staff recommend an increment in the operating budget for HRM's Traffic Authority to support this initiative.	Increase Operating budget by \$50,000.
16. \$250,000 to begin implementation of the Neighbourhood Bus Program	Additional funds not required at this time. Staff will continue with the development of the concept with a view to introduce the new service in 2008/09. Staff will return to Council in early fall with more detail on the program concept.	None
17. \$25,000 to create a 2 nd Household Hazardous Waste Urban Depot	Staff recommend the inclusion of this item in the operating budget.	Increase Operating budget by \$25,000.
Total: \$ 1,005,800		Total: \$730,800

OPERATING DECREASES		
Parking Lot Item	Recommendation	Budget Implication
18. \$153,200 reduction in Manager's Contingency within Fiscal Services.	The complete elimination of this contingency fund can significantly hinder staff's ability to respond to unexpected items that arise through the year. The fund is used to support one-time items that require funding and cannot be accommodated elsewhere within the operating budget.	Decrease Operating Budget by \$53,200
19. \$330,000 in additional revenue from the Province Library Grant.	Staff recommend the inclusion of this funding in the Library revenue budget. At present, this amount is an estimate based on historical funding allocation from the Province. Had staff been aware of this revenue, the expenditure envelope would have been \$330,000 less.	Increase Revenue budget by \$330,000.
Total: \$483,200		Total: \$383,200

To support the above net increases, an equal and offsetting amount has been found within our current proposed resources. To support the recommended net operating budget increase, which totals \$347,600 (\$730,800 in expenditures increases; supported by \$383,200 in revenue and expenditure decreases) staff are recommending the following reductions within the 2007/08 Proposed Operating Budget:

1. Decrease Fiscal Services - Other Goods and Services by \$47,600; and
2. Decrease Fiscal Services - Not for Profit Indexing by \$300,000; HRM Finance had intended to index both the low income and not for profit tax exemption, however, now propose to consider indexing not for profit exemptions in 2008/09.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

A detailed Budget Implications section can be found in Attachment B.

Throughout budget debate, and during recent audit committee meetings there have been concerns raised regarding cost containment, tax burden, and financial sustainability to respond to these issues. HRM will be undertaking three complementary activities during 2007/08:

- Tax Reform
- Updating components of the multi-year financial strategy
- Begin a review of programs and services

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy. This report complies with approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

- a) Increase the tax rate by .105% providing an estimated \$347,600 in tax revenue. This would reduce the tax rate reduction from 2.5% to 2.4%
- b) Reduce capital from operating by \$347,600 through the reduction of the total Capital Budget.
- c) Reduce the operating budget by the reduction of Council Focus Area funding by \$347,600.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Parking Lot Summary List - Halifax Regional Police/RCMP

Appendix B - Detailed Budget Implications

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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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Report Approved by:



Cathie O'Toole, CGA A/Director, Finance 490-6308

Attachment A

Police Additional Resources Required Request - 2007/08 Fiscal Year

Initiative	07/08 funds requested through Council Focus Areas	Funds Provided	Amended Request	Corporate Solution
1 FTE Computer Forensic	85,500.00	40,000.00	42,750.00	Last 6 Months for 07/08
Up Grade Voice Box	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	
1 FTE	85,500.00		42,750.00	Last 6 Months for 07/08
Develop and Deploy digital storage	29,500.00			HRM Corporate Solution re technology
RCMP Position	107,000.00		68,000.00	Funding to be provided to support an HRM Communications staff person at a rate less then the current RCMP Sworn Officer rate. Plus Move 3 commissionaires and associated revenue from Parking enforcement
6 Commissionaires	150,000.00		75,000.00	
AA Supt Patrol	44,525.00		22,262.50	Last 6 Months for 07/08
Video Cameras	24,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
5 Lidar Radar Sets	32,000.00		32,000.00	
City Watch (not requested, but funds allocated)	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Total Budget	607,025.00	109,000.00	351,762.50	
Funding provided			(109,000.00)	
Additional Funding Required			242,762.50	
Less savings in RCMP incremental cost			(105,876.00)	
			136,886.50	Parking Lot Total

Attachment B - Detailed Budget Implications

CAPITAL		
Project	Budget change	Funding Source
CPU00931 Regional Washroom Facilities	20,000	Crespool
Crosswalk Countdown Signals	100,000	Crespool
Total Capital Budget Increase	120,000	

OPERATING		
Project	Budget Change	Funding Source
TPW: Crosswalk Safety Education	50,000	Operating Reductions
Police: Net requested initiatives	137,000	Operating Reductions
Fire: Urban Search and Rescue	150,000	Operating Reductions
Library: Dartmouth North	143,800	Incremental Revenue
Library: Incremental Provincial Grant Revenue	<u>(330,000)</u>	External
Library: Net Change	(186,200)	
CD: Greater Halifax Partnership	225,000	Operating Reductions
EMS: Household Hazardous Waste Urban Depot	25,000	Operating Reductions

OPERATING		
Project	Budget Change	Funding Source
Fiscal: Other Goods and Services	(47,600)	Operating Reduction
Fiscal: Manager's Contingency	(53,200)	As per Parking Lot
Fiscal: Not for Profit indexation	<u>(300,000)</u>	To be re-evaluated in 2008/09
Fiscal: Net Change	(400,800)	
Total Net Operating Budget change	0	

OTHER FUNDING		
Other Funding	Budget Change	Description
Crespool	120,000	Support Capital and Operating Budget