


# HALIFAX

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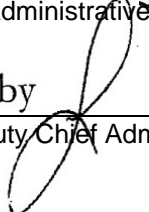
**Item No. 11.1.5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**November 10, 2015**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original signed by 

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 

Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** September 16, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Donation of Surplus Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Trunked Portable Radios

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## **ORIGIN**

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) has completed the migration to a second generation trunked radio system, better known as TMR2. The remaining TMR equipment not able to be repurposed has been deemed surplus by HRFE.

In recognition of this surplus equipment, fire departments providing mutual or automatic aid to HRM have made requests to HRFE for the donation of the remaining TMR portable radios at no additional cost or obligation to the HRM.

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

The Halifax Regional Municipality Administrative Order 35 Section 13 (4) states:

The disposal of surplus assets with competition to any not-for-profit corporation, association, or entity or any Municipality, Crown Corporation, School Board, or any level of government shall be awarded by Halifax Regional Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the donation of remaining TMR portable radios upon request to fire departments providing mutual or automatic aid to HRM.

## **BACKGROUND**

HRM currently receives mutual and/or automatic aid fire protection from volunteer fire departments located in Lunenburg, Hants, Colchester, Pictou and Guysborough Counties. Volunteer fire departments within these counties have requested the donation of TMR portable radios in support of firefighting operations.

Previous to the past 5 years, the practice was to donate, upon request, items older than 10 years and marked for disposal. These items such as fire nozzles, fire hose, and bunker gear were donated to various Rural NS Fire Departments. This practice has ceased and now reports such as this one are prepared for Council approval.

HRM is in the position to provide up to 200 portable radios which have been deemed surplus by HRFE.

## **DISCUSSION**

Prior to the migration to TMR 2, HRFE operated with approximately 480 Motorola XTS series portable radios. The portable radios previously used by HRFE have been in use in excess of 10 years and have reached end of life for public safety use. The previously used portable radios could not be upgraded with the latest firmware and therefore cannot be made compatible with HRFE's new digital vehicle repeater system (DVRS). The DVRS in use today by HRFE extends the TMR 2 network in order to provide firefighters with reliable communications on the fire ground and allows incidents to be monitored and recorded by fire dispatch. The use of DVRS enables firefighters to work within dense structures, below grade and in varying terrain without losing connection to the TMR 2 network and requires portable radios with the upgraded firmware which is not available in the older model radios.

While HRFE has deemed these radios surplus, approximately 200 older model radios have been repurposed and upgraded at a cost of \$450 per radio for other business units to work on the new TMR 2 system. These repurposed radios do not have a requirement for DVRS compatibility and public safety level reliability and therefore can be operated directly on the TMR 2 network. The remaining surplus radios held by HRFE have been deemed surplus by HRFE and FICT.

While more costly to configure and operate for HRM, they still have some use for smaller fire departments outside HRM that are unable to procure new TMR2 portable radios. The TMR portable radios require reprogramming prior to being put in service on the new TMR2 network. The fire departments acquiring these radios would assume all costs of configuring the radios for TMR2. Through the donation of these TMR portable radios, fire departments interested in obtaining surplus TMR portable radios would be accepting the equipment "as is, where is" with no risk to the municipality with transfer of ownership.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The TMR portable radios previously used by HRFE are fully depreciated. The estimated market value in current condition as end of life portable radios requiring maintenance and reprogramming is approximately \$100 each, for a total of \$20,000. HRM would forego this amount with a donation of the TMR portable radios to volunteer fire departments providing fire and rescue assistance to HRM.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

The donation of this equipment will extend the life of the TMR portable radios for several years and improve fire ground radio communications for the fire protection areas along HRM's borders.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Council could direct staff to sell the TMR portable radios as serviceable equipment requiring maintenance and reprogramming via public auction, however, there is no guarantee that the municipality would realize the estimated market value as a result. Proceeds from the sale of surplus equipment are directed to a General Reserve.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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