

BRIEFING NOTE

Emergency Management Program

Issue/Background:

The Community Services Committee, at its review of the 2004 EMT Recommended Capital Budget on February 11, 2004, requested that the Commissioner Works and Emergency Services provide a briefing note to the Budget Advisory Committee on the details of the expenses, the business case, and what can be reduced with respect to the scope of the CBRN project, given the reduction of Federal support from 75 percent to 45 percent.

Key Point(s):

- This project will continue to develop the team's existing capabilities by through acquisition of necessary specialized equipment. The Toronto Joint CBRN Team proposes to acquire sufficient quantities of personal protective equipment, communications equipment, and breathing apparatus to permit emergency rescue operations in environments requiring. Much of the personal protective equipment has expiry dates. Equipment used for training requires replacement. Various detection devices are required to correctly identify the levels of protection required by our personnel, and to acquire all of the equipment required to safely decontaminate patients, personnel and equipment.
- During its deliberations of the 2004 operating budget, EMT reduced this project by \$200 thousand despite the negative impact it will have on such factors as reduced response capability, current consumable supplies (medical & decontamination) will deteriorate, first responder safety will be reduced, and hospitals may be negatively impacted by the service reduction. Further reductions to the scope of this project are not recommended.
- In order to stay within the spending limits under the current budget pressures, the cash flow has been spread over 2 years. Federal cost sharing (JEPP) has been applied for, resulting in \$0.484 million (Gross), with \$0.218 million Federal share and a \$0.266 million City share. Due to the offset federal fiscal year, approvals will not be known until May or June, and have been as late as September. Federal cost sharing will also be applied for the federal fiscal year 2005-2006.

The 2004 EMT Capital recommendation for CBRN is \$0.484 million. On a priority basis, this project includes the following list of equipment:

Equipment Costs:

Personal Protective Equipment:

ITEM	UNIT COST	NUMBER REQUIRED	TOTAL COST
Chem/Bio suits, complete with gloves, boots, Masks	1,500.00	130	195,000
SUBTOTAL			\$195,000

Chemical Detection Equipment:

ITEM	UNIT COST	NUMBER REQUIRED	TOTAL COST
Chemical Agent Detector	19,000	2	38,000
SUBTOTAL			\$38,000

General:

ITEM	UNIT COST	NUMBER REQUIRED	TOTAL COST
Utility Vehicle 4WD, 4-6 Passenger	60,000	1	60,000
Trailer	20,000	1	20,000
Portable Weather Station	1000	1	1000
Laptop	5,000	2	10,000
Portable Radios with spare batteries, charging system, and headsets	5,000	25	125,000
CAM Sim System simulator	35,000	1	35,000
SUBTOTAL			251,000

Total cost of equipment **\$484,000**

- Federal Funding - Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP)**

The Federal Government operates a funding program known as the Joint Emergency Preparedness program (JEPP), which provides federal money to municipalities through an annual application and approval process. The provincial government administers JEPP. The program reimburses municipalities up to 45% of approved projects. 9/11 served to highlight the need for the development of a local chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) response team. Senior staff of police, fire, EMS and public health, resulting in a Joint CBRN response team endorsed a joint approach. Following 9/11 the same interest was expressed and the federal government proposed increased funding share of 75%.

In late summer 2003, the City of Toronto was informed that original federal program for CBRN with a 25/75 funding split was not to be continued, and that CBRN money would have to be found within the JEPP program, at the usual 45/55 split.

The Regional Director of the Federal Office of Critical Infrastructure and Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP) has indicated that CBRN funding was for two years only and at a 75% federal share. OCIPEP has been unsuccessful to date in extending the funding for that program so they are now accepting CBRN proposals as normal JEPP proposals whereby municipal JEPP proposals are funded at a 45% federal share.

- **Background**

In the aftermath of the September 11th attack on the World Trade Centre, shortcomings in the City of Toronto's response capabilities for certain types of incidents were identified. While counter-terrorism preparedness had never been seen as a priority, certain call types, including calls for real or suspected weaponized biological or chemical agents, had never been foreseen, and had not been prepared for. Toronto's emergency response services, including Police, Fire, EMS and Public Health, like their counterparts in other communities across the country, found themselves inundated with calls to assess various types of substances and packages that were suspected of containing biological or chemical agents; agents for which they lacked the training or equipment to deal with effectively.

- **The Solution:**

The Toronto Joint CBRN Team proposes that the already established multidisciplinary response team, consisting of appropriately trained and equipped paramedics, firefighters, and police, supported by Public Health and Base Hospital physicians, receive the funding required to continue the necessary training and equipment procurement for the Team. This team is specifically trained, equipped and tasked to respond to incidents involving the deliberate or accidental release of biological or chemical agents, and to act in a standby role for major events and for the visits of dignitaries. The Joint CBRN Team project was initiated began its development in 2002 and is about to enter its 3rd year of development.

- **Team Description**

The Team consists of members from Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police Services, Toronto Emergency Medical Services and Toronto Public Health. The Team is a joint venture between all four Toronto agencies. The members of the Team will be trained and equipped to jointly respond to all CBRN incidents. A Joint Operations Steering Committee has been created, comprised of senior members of these response organizations oversees the CBRN team development.

Conclusion:

Federal support for the CBRN project has been reduced from 75% funding to 45% funding. The Executive Management Team has adjusted the 2004 cash flow to reflect this reduced level of funding without impacting on the City's original debt target. This results in a recommended EMT 2004 cash flow of \$0.484 million (Gross) with a \$0.218 million Federal share and \$0.266 million financed by debt.

Date: February 13, 2004