

## **BRIEFING NOTE**

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### **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 business case and detailed expenditure for the HUSAR / CBRN Facility project.

#### **Key Point(s):**

- The purpose of this business case is to justify Capital Budget funding to construct a new building for the Base of Operations on existing lands at the Toronto Fire Services, Special Operations Training Centre, 200 Bermondsey Road., (Old Eglinton Ave parking lot, just north of Rescue Dome) from which the Toronto HUSAR Taskforce will operate. Also to include provisions for logistical support of the CBRN Response Teams.
- The size of the existing area at the Special Operations Training Centre can accommodate a structure of approximately 150 feet long by 50 feet wide (approx. 7,500 sq ft) providing that the minimum building setback requirement is less than 4 feet) to house the following facilities:
  - Securable inventory storage
  - Securable training equipment storage
  - Securable deployment equipment storage
  - Equipment maintenance area
  - Indoor parking for 1 Tractor Trailer, 3 Rescue Squad Vehicles, and smaller admin vehicles
  - Female and male washrooms
- The estimated cost by WES engineers for the total project varies between \$0.650 million to \$1.0 million depending on the type of construction materials to be used. It is recommended that a concrete and steel method be used which could take the project to the upper \$1.0 million estimate.
- Annual Operating costs would be limited to utilities and ensuring the integrity of the structure and upkeep of appearance estimated at \$5,000.00.

- The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that workers be adequately and safely trained to perform their duties. The HUSAR /CBRN facility would be located at the Special Operations Training Centre allowing coordinated and safe training for these highly skilled disciplines to occur. We are mandated to provide these services as below and therefore must provide a rapid and safe deployment.
- The Ministry of Public Safety and Security is currently supporting the Toronto HUSAR and CBRN initiatives under their Act. Other response legislation and City policy for emergency preparedness, safety and security makes this facility necessary as well.
- HUSAR is defined by the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness (OCIPEP) as “the location of trapped persons in collapsed structures using dogs and sophisticated search equipment; the use of heavy equipment such as cranes to remove debris; the work to breach, shore, remove and lift structural components; the treatment and removal of victims; and the securing of partially or completely collapsed structures”.
- National teams are expected to be completely self sufficient, with up to 70 Personnel, for periods up to 10 days. Toronto’s HUSAR team, is a multi-service, multi skilled, and multi-functional task force developed within the framework of existing response agencies. The Toronto HUSAR Team will have the capability to deal with almost any type of incident whether man-made or natural. The Team may be used in part by the local emergency services or as a whole depending on the requirement. Toronto HUSAR will be fully deployable on a 24/7 basis with a muster time of 6 hours.
- The City currently supports 2 CBRN response teams in the event of a terrorist or criminal act. The first is an intra-City joint response of Public Health, Fire, EMS and Police Services. The second is an OFM initiated tri-city team comprised of fire services from Ottawa, Windsor and Toronto.
- As the City of Toronto continues to grow and attract international attention, the potential of an actual HUSAR or CBRN event increases here as well as our commitment to serve the rest of the nation.
- Benefits to Toronto HUSAR & Toronto CBRN:
  - Site will be situated next to HUSAR and CBRN training area at the Special Operations Centre
  - Provides autonomy while avoiding operational and training conflicts
  - Provides for a higher level of readiness
  - Enhances teams effectiveness
  - Resources and time (equipment & instructors) are efficiently utilized
  - Compliments existing facility
  - Builds on existing partnerships and create new partnerships (e.g. private industry, create new marketing opportunities).

- HUSAR currently operates out of a small part of the TFS East Training Centre, 4562 Sheppard Avenue East. HUSAR competes for very limited space and occupies one office, a small screened in locker, and the training grounds on which four 20' shipping containers are located. HUSAR was unable to utilize the small indoor parking space once the cold weather approached due to the number of training pumpers requiring storage. This meant that HUSAR was unable to keep their primary response vehicle fully loaded with equipment due to the cold temperatures. This results in a critical additional response time due to the reloading requirement.
  - HUSAR has almost three-quarters of the total equipment cache required by FEMA to be considered a fully deployable USAR Team. This equipment will be worth well in excess of 1.5 million dollars when complete. Some of this equipment is electronic in nature and is very delicate. All HUSAR equipment requires proper and secure storage and an inventory and maintenance area. A significant portion of HUSAR's equipment must be stored indoors not allowing them to use the containers outdoors. Therefore, HUSAR has all the equipment that could be damaged by outdoor storage jammed into a very small locker.
  - HUSAR has had quite a difficult time with the outdoor parking of its trucks. The learning curve of managing a small fleet has been quite steep and HUSAR now has some insight into the difficulties of having vehicles suited for this purpose. Many times HUSAR has been unable to start their vehicles due to the cold and also to the fact that the current facility does not have outdoor receptacles of a high enough load capacity to supply block heaters.
  - Once HUSAR has received all their equipment, they will have exceeded the capacity of this facility. HUSAR made it through this past winter but will not be able to do so again.
  - HUSAR anticipates the Team Selection Process will be completed by the late summer and that they will be commencing the main training programs in September. Once the team members have completed the first phase of training, HUSAR will be a deployable resource. Their current facility is inadequate for them to meet this expectation.
  - Currently CBRN shares its space with the Office of Emergency Management and Special Operations Training Centre. CBRN requires a secure area to cache its equipment so that it does not mix with the regular Special Operations training equipment as CBRN equipment must be ready to deploy in minutes in the event of an emergency. Security is an issue as well when equipment is readily available to those outside of the CBRN team.
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**Conclusion:**

The HUSAR / CBRN Facility will provide a permanent base of operations for the HUSAR / CBRN Team. The Executive Management Team has recommended a total project cost of \$1.0 million, with a 2004 cash flow of \$0.200 million and a 2005 cash flow of \$0.800 million, fully financed by debt.

**Date: February 13, 2004**