

Report to Council



Date: December 4, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Next Generation 9-1-1 Funding
Department: Fire Department

Recommendation:

That Council receives, for information, the financial funds for transitioning Kelowna Fire Dispatch to Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) with respect to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) letter date August 4, 2023.

AND THAT the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to include grant funding of \$3,045,000 received from the Union of BC Municipalities to be used towards the NG 9-1-1 transition project.

Purpose:

To amend the 2023 Financial Plan to include the receipt of funds for Kelowna Fire Dispatch NG 9-1-1 transition.

Background:

NG9-1-1 is an update to the current E9-1-1 system that will enhance the delivery of emergency services in Canada. It will allow callers to use different communication methods, such as voice, text, and video, and provide more accurate location information. Kelowna Fire Dispatch is one of the agencies that is transitioning to NG9-1-1, and this report summarizes the expenses related to this project from 2020 to 2023.

In August, the Union of BC Municipalities provided a letter of approval for the NG9-1-1 grant funding to the City of Kelowna in the amount of \$3,045,000. The funding will support all costs related to the transition to NG9-1-1.

To date, an initial 50% of funding (\$1.5 million) has been received. Funding above that will be forwarded as costs are incurred, subject to reporting and financial summaries, to the maximum of \$3,000,000.

The NG9-1-1 transition is a critical project that will ensure that Kelowna Fire Dispatch can provide efficient and effective emergency services to the public using the new system.

Discussion:*Prior Expenditures*

Kelowna Fire Dispatch has been working with Finance to track all the expenses related to the NG9-1-1 transition since 2020. These expenses, totaling \$114,940, include hardware/software upgrades, and consultant fees.

Future Funds

Grant funds will be used over the next three years for implementation of hardware and software including an upgraded backup location, staff training, consultant fees and internal supports costs such as Information Services.

Conclusion:

Kelowna Fire Dispatch will be working with a consultant to help with the technology transition over the next three years. The NG 9-1-1 will enable important improvements to public safety and modernize 9-1-1 networks and critical infrastructure.

Budget for this grant funding will be included in the 2023 Financial Plan.

Internal Circulation:

Grants & Special Projects Manager

Financial Services

Considerations applicable to this report:***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

The Financial Plan Amendment Policy (FIN-032) requires Council approval, through a Report to Council,

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Consultation and Engagement:

Submitted by:

T Whiting, Fire Chief