



Report
Staff Report
 The Corporation of the City of Brampton
 6/19/2024

Date: 2024-06-13

Subject: **Request to Begin Procurement for Supply and Delivery of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**

Contact: Dwayne Chaisson, Division Chief, Apparatus and Maintenance, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services

Report number: Brampton Fire and Emergency Services-2024-554

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Dwayne Chaisson, Division Chief, Apparatus and Maintenance, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services to the Committee of Council Meeting of June 19, 2024, re: **Request to Begin Procurement for Supply and Delivery of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)**, be received; and,
2. That the Purchasing Agent be authorized to commence the Procurement for replacement Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

OVERVIEW:

- **The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authorization to commence procurement for the supply and delivery of replacement Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the City of Brampton.**
- **Funding for this initiative is available within the Fire and Emergency Services approved Capital Budget.**

BACKGROUND:

SCBAs are an essential component in protecting the health and safety of firefighters, providing the firefighter with the ability to breathe and communicate in hazardous atmospheres. Firefighters are required to use SCBA at incidents including fires, fire alarms, natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and other hazardous atmosphere incidents. Respiratory protection in dangerous atmospheres is a key element of safety in the fire service.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department's inventory of SCBA has been subject to increasingly frequent failures during routine inspections. Currently, the department owns 144 SCBA manufactured by Scott Safety that were purchased 10 years ago. At the time of purchase, these units were compliant with the current National Fire Protection Association Standard 1981 Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Emergency Services (2007 Edition). These units have reached the industry standard life expectancy of useful life and require replacement. The department's responsibility as it relates to firefighter safety necessitates the replacement of the existing inventory of SCBAs.

Under clause 25 (2) (h) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), employers have a duty to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker. Clause 25 (1) (b) of the OHSA requires employers to ensure that equipment, materials and protective devices provided by the employer are maintained in good condition. Clause 25 (2) (d) of the OHSA requires the employer to acquaint a worker or a person in authority over a worker with any hazard in the work and in the handling, storage, use, disposal and transport of any article, device, equipment or a biological, chemical or physical agent. To comply with the OHSA and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standard Z94.4-18 on the Selection, Care and Use of Respirators, the Fire and Emergency Services Department has developed a Respiratory Protection Program that is reviewed annually.

The 2024 Capital Budget included an approved budget of \$2.1 million for the replacement of the end-of-life SCBA and cylinders.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Fire and Emergency Services is ready to begin the procurement process for the supply and delivery of replacement SCBA for the City of Brampton.

Fire and Emergency Services has established a committee to make recommendations to the Division Chief of Apparatus & Maintenance and Division Chief of Training regarding the replacement of SCBA and associated components. The SCBA Replacement Advisory Committee's mandate is as follows:

- Evaluate the complement of existing equipment and develop a proposal for replacement and retainment of existing equipment.
- Ensure recommended replacement equipment remains compatible with existing equipment that is being retained.
- Assist in the development of a distribution and training plan.
- Ensure specifications consider all users.
- Ensure specifications uphold the requirements under the NFPA standards, CSA standards, and the BFES Respiratory Protection Program.
- Uphold the recommendations of Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Advisory Committee Guidance Note #4-9 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION
- Ensure specifications consider serviceability and maintenance.

Fire and Emergency Services intends to seek proposals from various vendors of self-contained breathing apparatus equipment that currently provide compatible products with existing retained equipment to obtain a product that best serves Brampton's specific needs.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

Funding for this initiative is available within the Fire and Emergency Services approved Capital Budget.

Purchasing Implications

A public procurement process will be conducted, and the lowest compliant bid will be eligible for Contract award. Purchase approval shall be obtained in accordance with the Purchasing By-law.

All communication with bidders involved in the procurement must occur formally, through the contact person identified in the RFP Document.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

This report has been prepared in full consideration of our strategic focus by showing leadership in health and well-being, and government and leadership, by replacing the respiratory protection for firefighters utilized when responding to emergencies.

- **Health & Well-being:** Focusing on citizens' belonging, health, wellness, and safety.
- **Government & Leadership:** Focusing on service excellence with equity, innovation, efficiency, effectiveness, accountability, and transparency.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that the Purchasing Agent be authorized to commence the Public Procurement for the replacement Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Authored by:

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