
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 7, 2008
File No.: 1700-01
To: City Manager
From: Rene Blanleil, Fire Chief
Subject: **Fire Department Re-Allocation of Funds for Communications Equipment**
Report Prepared by: Assistant Chief Rod Miller

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT 2008 Capital Project Summary budget funds originally allocated to Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q300 Communications in the amount of \$85,000 be redirected;

AND THAT \$12,000 be redirected from Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q300 Communications to Chartfield Account 231-10-109-0-227'Support & Operations for the Alert Find software;

AND THAT \$40,000 be redirected from Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q300 Communications to Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q3003 radio replacements;

AND THAT \$20,000 be redirected from Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q300 Communications to Chartfield Account 10-110-FD100-Q3506 systems upgrades and Dispatch Centre upgrades.

BACKGROUND:

Re-Allocation of Funds Request

In the 2008 Budget preparation process, the Fire Department put forth a recommendation for radio system and dispatch centre upgrades. At the time, the Fire Department was unsure of the following parameters:

- System provider
- System configurations
- Implementation process

At the Central Okanagan Regional District Board meeting held on Monday, April 28, 2008, the Regional Board approved Omega Communications as the successful bid to provide the above-noted services. As a result, the Fire Department requests approval for the following funds to be transferred:

10-110-FD100-Q3000 Communications –Dilworth

Funds allocated in the 2008 budget process to upgrade power on Dilworth Mountain will not be required. This site will not be used as one of the main repeater sites. Equipment will be decommissioned. Existing power at the site is sufficient for reservoir operation and existing equipment. Funds originally budgeted in the amount of \$85,000 for this location are to be redirected to the following three areas:

1. A Web based system, Alert Find, will allow us to call resources quickly and easily from the Kelowna Dispatch Centre. This will enable our Dispatchers to activate the EOC, call back firefighters and assemble for major emergencies. The system will allow each individual the ability to input up-to-date emergency contact information. The system will track responders and will free Dispatchers time.

\$12,000.00 to be allocated to Alert Find

Account 231-10-109-0-227'Support & Operations

On-going operating costs will be needed for this new system and will be applied for through the regular budget process.

2. Our radio system is now defined and based on the recent approval of the Regional District's new system. New equipment will enable us to achieve narrow banding capabilities and digital capability.

\$40,000.00 to be allocated for radio replacements

Account 10-110-FD100-Q3003

3. In order to complete Dispatch Centre upgrades based on the needs of the new radio system, the Zetron paging equipment and Nice Dictaphone recording equipment requires upgrading. The expansion of the City Computer system at the Fire Hall makes it necessary to relocate part of the equipment to the Mechanics' office and to install climate control equipment.

\$20,000.00 to be allocated for system upgrading and relocation

Account 10-110-FD100-Q3506

There will be a remainder of \$13,000 in the Communications-Dilworth capital account that will not be required. As the funding is from the Fire Equipment Replacement Reserve, that balance will remain in the reserve.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Financial Planning Manager

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Equipment requirements meet Industry Canada and NFPA regulations.

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

The proposed re-allocation of funds will result in a reduced funding requirement for the 2008 capital program.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXISTING POLICY:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:



R. Blaneil, Fire Chief

Approved for Inclusion:



cc: Keith Grayston, Financial Planning Manager
Rod Miller, Assistant Fire Chief