To Mayor and Members of City Council

From Todd Binkley
Acting Fire Chief, Brantford Fire Department

1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item [ ]
Item For Consideration [ X ]

2.0 Topic Fire Station 1 Mechanical Pit Repair [Financial Impact - $60,000]

3.0 Recommendation

A. THAT Report 2020-303 Fire Station1 Mechanical Pit Repair BE RECEIVED; and
B. THAT the Fire Station Mechanical Pit repair capital project BE APPROVED; and
C. THAT the cost of up to $60,000 BE FUNDED from the Facility Asset Management Reserve (RF0526).

4.0 Purpose and Overview

To request approval from City Council to proceed with the repair of the mechanical pit at Fire Station 1 to an upset amount of $60,000.

5.0 Background
Fire Station 1, Central Services located at 60 Clarence St. was built in 2000. All divisions within the Brantford Fire Department operated out of this facility, including Fleet and Facilities.

Fleet and Facilities is responsible for all maintenance and repairs of the Fire Department’s sixteen (16) emergency vehicles and eleven (11) support vehicles. To enable the Brantford Fire mechanics to complete the necessary repairs, maintenance and inspections on the Fire Department’s fleet a mechanical pit was installed when the station was built. The purpose of the mechanical pit is to provide the mechanic the ability to safely access the under carriage of a vehicle and provide a safe means to raise a vehicle and remove the wheels when necessary. This pit has allowed Fleet and Facilities to make the majority of repairs on a variety of different vehicle types in a timely manner, ensuring that the downtime for these vital vehicles is minimized.

6.0 Corporate Policy Context

Community Strategic Goal #4 - Excellence in Governance and Municipal Management.

Brantford will be recognized as a fiscally responsible and well-managed city that provides efficient and effective government services.

7.0 Input From Other Sources

Facilities and Asset Management, Finance.

8.0 Analysis

The mechanical pit consists of metal rails that are formed and pinned into the concrete and a lifting mechanism that sits within these rails on rollers that allow the mechanism to be moved as necessary. This mechanism is damaged and cannot be used without endangering the health and safety of the mechanic. This has prevented the fire department from utilizing the pit to its full and intended use. Unfortunately, the lifting mechanism cannot be repaired or replaced due to the age and integrity of structural rail components of the pit.

Additionally, the Fire Department is unable to upgrade the lifting mechanism to a device that is compliant with applicable legislation and industry best practices.

The removal and replacement of the structural components and installation of a compliant pit jack is necessary to ensure that the Fleet and Facilities Division
can continue to meet the mechanical needs of the Fire Department. This project was not identified in last year’s budget, as the failure of the lifting mechanism was not anticipated nor was the replacement of the pit intended.

The Fire Department, thorough the Purchasing Department will conduct a competitive bidding process to attempt to maximize the best cost and still complete the necessary work in a timely manner.

9.0 Financial Implications

$60,000 funded from the Facility Asset Management Reserve

10.0 Conclusion

A properly functioning mechanical pit at Station 1 is an integral component of the operations of the Fire Department. Staff recommends replacing and repairing the structural components to enable Fleet and Facilities to maintain and repair Fire Department vehicles in a timely and cost effective manner.

Todd Binkley, Acting Fire Chief

Brian Hutchings, CAO

Attachments (if applicable): None

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required [ ] yes [x] no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk [ ] yes [x] no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? [ ] yes [ x] no