



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Fire and Rescue Services
Date: February 3, 2025
Prepared by: Jason Pillon, Fire Chief
Report Number: Fire and Rescue Services – 2025-01
Subject: Grant Funding – Ontario Nuclear Emergency Management Program
Number of Pages: 4 (plus attachment)

Recommendation(s)

That Fire and Rescue Services Report – 2025-01 entitled Grant Funding – Ontario Nuclear Emergency Management Program, prepared by Jason Pillon, Fire Chief dated February 3, 2025, be received, and

That Council receive for information that the Town of Essex was awarded grant funding from the “Ontario Nuclear Emergency Management Program” in the amount of \$50,000.00 for assisting and supporting Designated and Host Municipalities in the development and implementation of their nuclear emergency response plans, and

That Council approve the 2025 post budget approval for the Capital Project “Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Supplies” in the amount of \$50,000, to be funded with \$50,000 from grant funding received from the “Ontario Nuclear Emergency Management Program” which will further strengthen and improve the Town of Essex's Nuclear Response Plan.

Purpose

Council approval is required to approve allocations outside of the annual budget.

Background and Discussion

The Ontario Nuclear, Radiological, and Scientific Response Programs Branch of Emergency Management Ontario has developed a program that provides annual Nuclear Emergency Management Program (NEMP) funding to strengthen the capacity of communities with nuclear roles and responsibilities. This funding aims to enhance their ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Ontarians in the event of a nuclear incident. The program's objective is to support Designated and Host Municipalities, as outlined in the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) Annex A, in accordance with Sections 3 and 8 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). The program assists municipalities with their nuclear emergency response plans, as detailed in Annex I, Appendices 15 and 16 of the PNERP. The Town of Essex has roles and responsibilities and is identified as a designated Host Municipality within the plan.

Last year, funding was used to support the installation of a backup generator for the Essex Centre Sports Complex Shaheen Room, which can serve as a reception/evacuation shelter in the event of an emergency where such a facility is needed, which includes potential nuclear emergencies.

For this year's funding, the grant was submitted and approved to fully equip both the primary and secondary Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) with updated and improved supplies, including essential administrative and office materials, mapping tools, storage solutions, communications and visual aid resources necessary for effective EOC operations. These supplies ensure that the centres are fully equipped to manage all aspects of emergency response, enabling staff to perform their duties effectively during both nuclear and other types of emergencies.

Additional funding will cover the cost of acquiring a mobile shelter unit equipped with a heating system. While planning for this year's upcoming nuclear exercise, it was identified that the absence of this mobile shelter unit at the reception center presents significant operational limitations. A mobile shelter would enhance the flexibility of the centre, as well as play a crucial role in emergency response. The unit can serve as a command post for effective coordination during critical incidents, function as a monitoring or decontamination station to protect responders from hazardous exposure and provide a designated staging area for personnel/equipment. Additionally, this type of shelter would prevent individuals who have been exposed to contaminants from entering the reception area, ensuring better containment and reducing the risk of contamination. Furthermore, this shelter could also be utilized for other types of emergencies beyond nuclear incidents, providing versatile support for a range of crisis situations.

The goal of this project funding is to ensure that the Town of Essex is fully equipped and prepared to activate both the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and a Reception Center in the event of a critical emergency.

Financial Impact

There is no net financial impact on the Town of Essex as the project is fully funded through a \$50,000.00 grant from the Ontario Nuclear Emergency Management Program.

Consultations

Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services

Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer

Link to Strategic Priorities

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Grant Funding - Ontario Nuclear Management Program.docx
Attachments:	- 02FY2024-25 NEMP Fund Transfer Payment Agreement - Signed Town of Essex.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 24, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services - Jan 23, 2025 - 10:42 AM



Kate Giurissevich, Director, Corporate Services - Jan 24, 2025 - 8:19 AM



Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Jan 24, 2025 - 8:31 AM