



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Fire and Rescue Services
Date: September 2, 2025
Prepared by: Jason Pillon, Fire Chief
Report Number: Fire and Rescue Services – 2025-08
Subject: Grant Funding – Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

That Fire and Rescue Services Report 2025-08 entitled Grant Funding – Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund prepared by Jason Pillon, Fire Chief dated September 15, 2025, be received, and

That Council approve the 2025 post budget approval expense for a new capital project entitled “Hydro One Grant – Positive Pressure Ventilation Equipment” in the amount of \$25,000.00, to be fully funded from grant funding received from the “Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund”.

Purpose

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

Background and Discussion

Hydro One's "Energizing Life Community Fund" is a grant program that provides \$25,000.00 to support initiatives that promote the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Ontarians. Open to charitable organizations, Indigenous communities, and municipalities across the province, the fund supports projects that enhance community safety and well-being, including mental health services, emergency response capabilities, and urban beautification efforts.

In March 2025, the Essex Fire and Rescue Services applied for and successfully secured \$25,000.00 through this program. The funding will be used to purchase three battery-powered Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) fans and battery packs, ensuring that each fire station in the Town is equipped with one fan and batteries.

By efficiently pushing fresh air into a structure, battery-powered PPV fans improve visibility, lower temperatures, and create safer conditions for both first responders and civilians during emergencies. Rapid ventilation is especially critical in reducing the risk of heatstroke, burns, smoke inhalation, and other life-threatening injuries. This equipment will significantly enhance firefighter safety by quickly clearing smoke, carbon monoxide, and other toxic gases from burning buildings, improving overall air quality. Additionally, the battery-powered design offers greater mobility and flexibility particularly valuable in rural areas where access to electricity may be limited.

At present, Essex Fire is equipped with plug-in electric and gas powered operated PPV fans, which limits the department's ability to respond effectively across the

municipality. Equipping all three stations with a fan will ensure consistent and reliable emergency response throughout the community. This investment will strengthen the department's capabilities, allowing firefighters to work more safely and efficiently, ultimately enhancing protection for residents and property.

This grant funding will have a lasting impact on the safety and resilience of the Town of Essex residents. By equipping fire stations with modern and efficient tools, Essex Fire and Rescue Services is better prepared for emergencies and more capable of supporting the crucial work of its firefighters.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact to the Town of Essex as the project is fully funded through a \$25,000.00 grant from Hydro One's Energizing Life Community Fund.

Consultations

Jake Morassut, Director Community Services

Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer

Ann Marie Unis, Manager, Finance and Business

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 - Hydro One Energizing Life Community Fund.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 27, 2025

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



Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Aug 27, 2025 - 2:57 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Ann Marie Unis, Manager, Finance & Business Services was completed by workflow administrator Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services

Ann Marie Unis, Manager, Finance & Business Services - Aug 27, 2025 - 3:07 PM