

# 2024 Budget Information Paper

Name of Department \*

Fire

Budget \*

- |   |   |  |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital<br>(included in capital Forecast, over \$5,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance<br>(On existing items) | <input type="checkbox"/> New (new item not replacing an existing item) | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating<br>(not part of Capital Forecast) | <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement<br>(replacing an existing item in it's entirety) | <input type="checkbox"/> Refurbish<br>(repair to extend the life of the item) |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|

Please enter a date \*

09/11/2023

Name: \*

Jesse Lambe, Fire Chief

Account # \*

10-04-0410-3320

Account Name \*

Communications Paging Radios

Category \*

Contracted Services

Subject: \*

Communications paging

## Recommendation: \*

That Council approves the increase for Communications Paging

## Background: \*

The North Kawartha Fire Department has been utilizing alphanumeric pagers for notification to our firefighters of 911 calls for years. We currently are utilizing TAS Page as our provider. On November 26th, 2021 the North Kawartha Fire Department received notice from TAS Page, that they were discontinuing their services to municipalities paging system effective August 1st, 2022. On November 30th, 2021 at a Peterborough County Fire Chiefs Association meeting, a committee was established to research options for a new paging system. Currently TAS Page has extended their service beyond the end date, which has resulted in requiring a temporary device that sends pages directly from the dispatch center rather than routing them through TAS Page. This is a temporary system as it is still on old infrastructure and lacking a backup power source. It was not intended for long-term use. Our existing paging system is currently on Towers that does not meet CSA or NFPA standards and the transmitters and antennas are beyond their life expectancy. The Peterborough County Fire Chiefs Association met on July 21st, 2022 to listen to presentations from three service providers. Out of the presentations, it was key that:

- ? paging notification and radio communication should be on separate systems due to redundancy
- ? towers should be CSA approved to withstand windstorms
- ? Redundancies of the paging system must be created
- ? Company profiles should be examined to ensure we are not in risk of discontinued services
- ? Monitoring of the system with a reliable notification and response system

## Analysis: \*

Based on the presentations on July 21st 2022

The presentation about the Swissphone DiCal system provides a paging solution that fulfills the need to have a disaster-proof emergency notification system. This is achieved with dispatch CAD integration, a back-up system at dispatch, at the alternate dispatch center, plus a tablet that can run paging notifications in the event of a CAD or critical network failure. Paging infrastructure is not shared with emergency radio infrastructure therefore providing redundancy in the event that our paging system fails.

Because Bell is a Public Safety Network with proven long-term stability, they are the service provider of choice. Bell has the capacity to provide 24/7/365 monitoring with technician support within 1 hour and on-site support within 3 hours. These details are clearly laid out in the service agreement. All of Bell's towers are CSA approved, have battery backup, and meet NFPA standards. Of the seven Bell sites that were included in the Swissphone DiCal design for Peterborough County, 5 have an automatic back-up generator and 2 have generator ready hook-ups. Due to the vulnerability with the aging equipment and with the creation of the paging committee comprised of three Fire Chiefs, the extensive research and due diligence in having presentations of three providers we would be looking for Council's approval to sole source.

**Financial Implications:**

**Dollar Amount of Item \***

\$39100

**How does it affect your budget \***

Increase in Expenses Over Previous Year Budget for this item



**How will it be funded? \***

OMPF



**Details if Other:**

\$28,571 is being carried over from 2023 for an anticipated 2024 cost of \$39,100.