

# Staff Report



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Public Services
Date	Monday, April 26, 2021
Subject	<b>Ontario Fire Safety Grant 2021</b>

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## Recommendation

1. That City Council pass a resolution accepting \$37,100 from the Fire Safety Grant as provided by the Ontario Fire Marshal to fund the purchase of technology upgrades to facilitate remote training and remote court appearances.
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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

To have Council pass a resolution accepting the Fire Safety Grant to be utilized as specified by the Ontario Fire Marshal grant program.

### Key Findings

This grant will allow for the purchase and installation of technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of centrally-led remote training. It will also facilitate court testimony when required. Council must pass a resolution to finalize the transfer payment process.

### Financial Implications

The grant funds are in addition to the approved 2021 capital budget and will be used to fund this project.

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## Report

In March 2021, the Solicitor General of Ontario announced \$5 million in one-time funding for local fire services to be used to enhance fire safety training and inspections across the province. The funding is being administered by the Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) using a formula that provides all fire services with \$4,500 in base funding, plus an additional allocation based on population served. This formula resulted in a funding allocation of \$37,100 for the Guelph Fire Department.

Preliminary grant documents have been sent to the OFM and have been accepted in principle. A resolution from Council is now required by the province to finalize the transfer payment process. The funding is to be used to improve technology to allow remote training and remote court testimony for fire code enforcement and inspections, as per the grant opportunity's eligible expenses. This funding will allow the purchase and installation of technology upgrades for Guelph Fire Service's training area and boardroom to facilitate training and testimony in a proper

environment. There will be a reporting requirement to OFM once this project is completed.

### **Financial Implications**

None

### **Consultations**

Consultation with Information Technology to determine the technology needs, and with Intergovernmental Services to facilitate the grant acceptance process.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

Building our Future: This grant will allow for the technological modernization necessary to allow virtual training environments and to facilitate virtual court appearances in line with COVID-19 safety protocols. Renewing this infrastructure contributes towards Building our Future.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Departmental Approval**

N/A

### **Report Author**

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