

# Staff Report



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To	<b>City Council</b>
Service Area	Corporate Services
Date	Tuesday, March 28, 2023
Subject	<b>COVID-19 General and Vaccine Expense Grant – Paramedic Services</b>

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## Recommendation

That the 2022 and 2023 operating budget for Paramedic Services be updated and approved by Council as shown in Table 1 in CS-2023-104 COVID-19 General and Vaccine Expense Grant - Paramedic Services.

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

To advise Council that the COVID-19 (COVID) General and Vaccine Expense Grant from the province will be ending resulting in a change in approach for how the City needs to budget for pandemic-related Paramedic Service expenditures. Staff are seeking Council approval of an amended Paramedic Services operating expenditure budget in 2022 and 2023 in order to receive funding in 2023 through the Land Ambulance Service Grant (LASG) for pandemic-related expenses.

### Key Findings

Emergency Health Services (EHS) has recently announced that it will no longer be reimbursing services for COVID expenses at 100 per cent as of April 1, 2023, onwards through the COVID-19 General and Vaccine Expenses Grant. Now that Ontario is in the recovery phase of the pandemic, paramedic services have been asked to incorporate post-COVID requirements into regular operations and submit via the LASG budget process, should the municipality have COVID expenses after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Unaware this change was on the horizon, the City took the approach of not budgeting for [COVID-19 impacts on 2022 budget and beyond](#) but rather submitting grant claims based on actual experience with the plan to incorporate the on-going costs into the next multi-year budget. In order to receive funding through the LASG, the expenditure budget must be Council approved. With this change of approach from EHS, these expenses will now only be funded at 50 per cent rather than fully funded. The City's 2023 LASG is based on the 2022 Council approved budget.

### Strategic Plan Alignment

The recommendation of this report aligns with the Building our Future priority through working to enhance community well-being and safety through direct service and program delivery as well as creating greater impact by aligning our efforts with local and provincial partners. Further, maximizing grant revenues to

reduce the amount required from taxation aligns with the goals of Working Together for our Future.

## Financial Implications

The additional costs estimated in 2023 to manage the recovery phase of the pandemic are \$822,000. In order to receive LASG for these costs, Council approval of this expenditure budget for both the 2022 and 2023 years is required. The City will receive LASG funding for 100 per cent of costs incurred from January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 estimated to be \$185,000 and 50 per cent of the costs incurred after April 1, 2023 estimated to be \$318,500. The remaining budget impacts are shared with the County of Wellington (37 per cent) and City (63 per cent) based on call volumes. In order to maintain a balanced budget, the City share would be balanced using the tax rate operating contingency reserve.

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## Report

EHS has recently announced that it will no longer be reimbursing services for COVID expenses at 100 per cent as of April 1, 2023 onwards through the COVID-19 General and Vaccine Expenses Grant. Now that Ontario is in the recovery phase of the pandemic, paramedic services have been asked to incorporate post-COVID requirements into regular operations and submit via the LASG budget process, should the municipality have COVID expenses after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Unaware this change was on the horizon, the City took the approach of not budgeting for [COVID-19 impacts on 2022 budget and beyond](#) but rather submitting grant claims based on actual experience with the plan to incorporate the on-going costs into the next multi-year budget. In order to receive funding through the LASG, the expenditure budget must be Council approved. With this change of approach from EHS, these expenses will now be funded at 50 per cent rather than fully funded. The City's 2023 LASG is based on the 2022 Council approved budget.

## Financial Implications

The additional costs estimated in 2023 to manage the recovery phase of the pandemic are \$822,000. In order to receive LASG for these costs, Council approval of this expenditure budget for the 2022 and 2023 years is required. Table 1 shows the total Paramedic Service budget both before and after this additional expenditure approval.

*Table 1 Paramedic Services Budget*

	<b>2022 Approved</b>	<b>2022 Adjusted</b>	<b>2023 Approved</b>	<b>2023 Adjusted</b>
<b>Expense Budget</b>	25,119,667	25,941,667	26,620,854	26,779,714
<b>Revenue Budget</b>	(16,892,390)	(17,714,390)	(17,936,170)	(18,312,155)
<b>Transfer from Reserve</b>	(216,440)	(216,440)	(441,820)	(224,695)

	<b>2022 Approved</b>	<b>2022 Adjusted</b>	<b>2023 Approved</b>	<b>2023 Adjusted</b>
<b>Net Budget</b>	8,010,837	8,010,837	8,242,864	8,242,864

A further breakdown of the revenue in Table 2 shows the main sources of revenues.

*Table 2 Paramedic Services Revenue Budget*

	<b>2022 Approved</b>	<b>2022 Adjusted</b>	<b>2023 Approved</b>	<b>2023 Adjusted</b>
<b>User Fees</b>	(16,200)	(16,200)	(16,200)	(16,200)
<b>County of Wellington</b>	(4,834,700)	(4,834,700)	(5,101,160)	(4,973,645)
<b>LASG</b>	(12,041,490)	(12,041,490)	(12,818,810)	(13,137,310)
<b>COVID-19 General and Vaccine Grant</b>		(822,000)	-	(185,000)
<b>Total</b>	(16,892,390)	(17,714,390)	(17,936,170)	(18,312,155)

The City will receive LASG funds for 100 per cent of costs incurred from January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023 estimated to be \$185,000 and 50 per cent of the costs incurred after April 1, 2023, estimated to be \$318,500. The remaining budget adjustments are shared with the County of Wellington (37 per cent) and City (63 per cent) based on call volumes. In order to maintain a balanced budget, the City's share would be balanced using the tax rate operating contingency reserve.

### **Consultations**

None

### **Attachments**

None

### **Departmental Approval**

Stephen Dewar, Chief and General Manager, Guelph Wellington Paramedic Service

### **Report Author**

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