

**FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: TURNOUT BOOTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council approve funding in the amount of \$60,000 (inclusive of GST) from Gaming Fund Reserves for the purchase of new firefighting turnout boots as outlined in this report.

**REPORT**

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its meeting held on 2009 April 23, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council's approval to facilitate the initial purchase of new firefighting safety footwear.

Research indicates that the style of boot considered will increase firefighter safety and reduce injuries attributed to the design of the currently used footwear.

It is recommended that the initial purchase provide for the replacement of the currently used boot in the first year of the expected three year replacement cycle rather than fractionally over the life of that cycle. The initial replacement would begin in late 2009 and be completed in early 2010. Subsequent replacement requirements would be funded through the normal budget planning process.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Jordan  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Finance Fire Chief IAFF Local 323
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2009 April 14

**FROM:** FIRE CHIEF

**SUBJECT:** TURNOUT BOOTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

**PURPOSE:** To obtain funding for the initial purchase of new firefighting safety footwear

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** funding in the amount of \$60,000 (inclusive of GST) from Gaming Fund Reserves be authorized for the purchase of new firefighting turnout boots as outlined in this report.

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

This report is prepared in response to a recommendation to Council by the Executive Committee of Council, to refer a request by the Fire Department for the funding of new turnout boots to the Finance and Civic Development Committee for consideration.

In 2007, the Fire Department and the Burnaby Firefighters Association Local 323 entered into discussion on the feasibility of replacing the currently used rubber gum boot style firefighting boot with lighter, more flexible footwear. The Union presented that the current boot, because of its style and construction materials hindered the ability of the firefighters to safely operate from ladders and difficult surfaces, and that extended continuous periods of use were causing knee, ankle and foot injuries as well as contributing to early fatigue at incidents. The Fire Department jointly researched the issue and based on the available information, agree with the safety and injury concerns raised. I am aware that Worksafe B.C. is also concerned about the relationship between the current style rubber boot and injuries claimed as a result of their use.

**2.0 FUNDING**

Three boot models were tested over a number of months and based on feedback from staff, a selection has been made. The boots are of excellent quality, Canadian made, and pricing is in the mid range of those tested. The boots are expected to be replaced every three (3) years on average and after the first issue, the cost of the future replacement cycles would be facilitated through the normal budget planning process.

To: Chair and Members Finance and Civic Development  
Committee  
From: Fire Chief  
Re: Turnout Boots for Firefighters  
2009 April 14..... Page 2

The submission to the Executive Committee of Council included a request to have the boots issued to all of the firefighters in the first year rather than one-third of the total each year over the expected three year replacement cycle and sufficient funding to facilitate this. From a current Departmental budget perspective, this would not be possible without supplemental start up funding from the City. The total cost of the boot replacement is \$90,000. The current Department budget would only provide for one-third (\$30,000) of the purchase annually, resulting in an initial purchase taking three years to complete. In addition, the Department expects to realize a significant per unit cost savings with the larger order.

**3.0 CONCLUSION**

The Fire Department is requesting funding from Gaming Fund Reserves in the amount \$60,000 (inclusive of GST) to facilitate the purchase of new firefighting boots. Research indicates that the style of boot considered will increase firefighter safety and reduce injuries attributed to the design of the currently used footwear. After a rigorous testing in regular service of three different manufacturer's boot models, a selection has been made. It is recommended that the initial purchase provide for the replacement of the currently used boot in the first year of the expected three year replacement cycle rather than fractionally over the life of that cycle. The initial replacement would begin in late 2009 and be completed in early 2010. Subsequent replacement requirements would be funded through the normal budget planning process.



R.W. (Bob) Cook  
FIRE CHIEF

BC:sc

Copied to: City Manager