

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve funding in the amount of \$68,486.88 (inclusive of HST) from Gaming Fund Reserves for the purchase of thirty (30) sets of firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE), as outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 October 27, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to purchase additional sets of firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) to support the requirements for an approved WorkSafe BC asbestos exposure control plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Jordan
Member

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

DATE: 2011 October 27

FROM: FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PURPOSE: To procure additional sets of firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) to support the requirements for an approved WorkSafe BC asbestos exposure control plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Reserve Funding in the amount of \$68,486.88 (inclusive of HST) be authorized for the purchase of thirty (30) sets of firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) for the purpose outlined in this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Recently, WorkSafe BC forwarded an inspection report to the Burnaby Fire Department. The report identified that the Fire Department is required to establish a specific asbestos exposure control plan.

Significant levels of asbestos materials exist in most buildings built prior to 1990. Buildings that contain asbestos materials create a potential health and contamination risk to firefighters. When buildings are involved with fire or collapse, the possibility of asbestos materials breaking and asbestos fibres being released into the air is very high. As a result, firefighters' personal protective equipment (PPE) becomes heavily soiled and/or contaminated as the airborne asbestos fibres adhere to the PPE.

To meet the requirements for a WorkSafe BC approved asbestos exposure control plan, PPE that has been contaminated by asbestos materials must be properly decontaminated prior to re-use. A thorough machine washing is required to effectively clean and decontaminate the PPE. The cleaning and drying process takes up to 2 days. From the conclusion of an asbestos exposure incident to the completion of the cleaning and drying process, affected firefighters are without PPE.

To: Finance and Civic Development Committee
From: Fire Chief
Re: Supplemental Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
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Currently, the Fire Department assigns each firefighter one complete set of PPE for firefighting operations. A very limited inventory of additional PPE is available as replacement for assigned PPE that requires decontamination.

A long range plan has been developed to ensure additional PPE is available for all firefighters. However, the long range solution will take four years to be fully implemented. In the interim, the Fire Department is requesting the purchase of thirty (30) additional sets of PPE to be used as replacement for contaminated PPE. If approved, this will allow the fire department to bridge a current shortage of replacement PPE until the long range solution is fully implemented.

2.0 FUNDING

Costs are based on the City's contract with Associated Fire and Safety Ltd., the current supplier of the Fire Department's PPE.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The Fire Department is requesting Reserve funding in the amount of \$68,486.88 (inclusive of HST) for the purchase of thirty (30) additional sets of PPE.

Shaun Redmond
FIRE CHIEF

Copy: City Manager
Director Finance