



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	December 12, 2019
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	PSR-CW-01-20
<b>Title:</b>	Grey County Paramedic Services Public Access Defibrillator Program Enhancements
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<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove, Kevin Wepler
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW07-20; Endorsed by County Council January 9, 2020 per Resolution CC13-20;

## Recommendation

1. **That Report PSR-CW-01-20 regarding Public Access Defibrillator Program Enhancements be received and that the 2020 budget include \$9,300 to provide Automatic External Defibrillator supplies to Public Access Program locations; and**
2. **That staff be authorized to implement a Public Access Defibrillator Loaner Program.**

## Executive Summary

Staff is seeking authorization to provide a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Loaner Program and for Council to consider in the 2020 budget the supplying of defibrillator pads and batteries for organizations which belong to the County of Grey PAD program.

Grey County has developed a lifesaving program which makes Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) available in locations throughout the community. These locations include community centres, halls, churches, schools, industrial sites and any other public locations where sudden cardiac arrest is possible. There are currently 148 AED's in the community as a part of the PAD program.

The Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Loaner Program will allow the public to borrow an automated external defibrillator, at no cost, for short-term community and family events within Grey County.

# Background and Discussion

The purpose of this report is to seek authorization to provide a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Loaner Program and for Council to consider in the 2020 budget the supplying of defibrillator pads and batteries for organizations which belong to the County of Grey PAD program.

Each year, an estimated 40,000 cardiac arrests occur in Canada. Approximately 80% of all cardiac arrests happen out of hospital and with every minute that passes without help the chance of survival decreases by 7-10%. With the immediate implementation of CPR and defibrillation, chances of survival increase.

An AED is a small portable unit used to aid a sudden cardiac arrest patient before Paramedics arrive on scene. Once the unit is turned on, it provides simple audio and visual prompts that lead the user through its proper use. An AED can analyze the electrical activity of the heart to determine if an application of energy or shock would be beneficial. The unit works by stopping the patient's heart briefly which gives the heart a chance to re-establish a regular rhythm. AEDs are portable, lightweight, durable, cost effective and take minimal amount of training and time to learn how to use.

Onsite AED's are widely promoted by numerous heart health organizations including the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The operation of an AED is now included in public CPR and First Aid training. Having an AED on site is rapidly becoming a basic standard of emergency care - equivalent to installing smoke alarms. AED's are most beneficial in public sites where large groups of people gather, fitness activities occur, or where there are identified high-risk individuals commonly at the site.

## Grey County Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Program

Grey County has developed a lifesaving program which makes AED's available in locations throughout the community. These locations include community centres, halls, churches, schools, industrial sites and any other public locations where sudden cardiac arrest is possible. There are currently 148 AED's in the community as a part of the PAD program. The PAD program has a mixture of donated and purchased units with approximately 104 of these units being donated to locations by the Heart and Stroke Foundation through the County of Grey. In the past year there have been three (3) successful saves using a Public Access Defibrillator within the County of Grey.

For locations that have an AED and that are a part of the Grey County PAD program they are provided with initial training, ongoing operational support, assistance with purchasing of supplies as well follow-up if the AED is utilized. Defibrillator pad and battery expiries are tracked through the PAD program using an electronic website. Also, the locations of the AED's in the community are tracked and input into the computer aided dispatch software at ambulance dispatch centres so that location information can be relayed to a caller during a 911 call.

To assist organizations that are a part of the Grey County PAD program and to streamline the monitoring of defibrillator pad and battery expiry it is being requested the 2020 budget include \$9,300 to fund supplies to these locations. Adult defibrillator pads and batteries have a shelf life of 5 years and pediatric defibrillator pads for children less than 8 years of age have an expiration of 2 years. It is being proposed that all sites are issued adult defibrillator pads and

locations with young children who frequently attend like schools and pools be supplied pediatric defibrillator pads as well. Certified vendors who will provide the AED supplies will be requested to have an electronic tracking site for locations and supply expiries as well have operational support available.

## Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Loaner Program

The Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) Loaner Program will allow the public to borrow an automated external defibrillator, at no cost, for short-term community and family events within Grey County. There would be two (2) AEDs available to be loaned out and will be made available on a first-come-first-served basis. A policy, waiver and request form will be developed for the program if approved.

Any member of the public will be able to make a request to borrow a defibrillator for an event. The applicant will be required to have a valid driver's license, agree to have a Grey County Paramedic provide a brief run through CPR and how to use the AED and sign a liability release form. The borrower will be held responsible for the AED while on loan.

## Bill 141, Defibrillator Registration and Public Access Act, 2019

The Defibrillator Registration and Public Access Act, 2019 imposes certain requirements respecting the installation, maintenance, testing and availability of defibrillators on designated premises or public premises. The Act also requires defibrillators at such premises to be registered with the registrar within specified time periods. The Act has currently been referred to Standing Committee on Social Policy.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

Agreements between the County of Grey and PAD locations will need to be updated to incorporate the supplying of defibrillator pads and batteries.

## Financial and Resource Implications

To supply batteries and defibrillator pads to locations it is estimated to cost \$9,300 per year.

The AED's required for the loaner program are in our current supply so there is no requirement to purchase new ones.

## Relevant Consultation

- External:
- Internal: CAO, Finance

## Appendices and Attachments

None