

Report PDR-PCD-09-15

To: Chair Wright and Members of Planning and Community Development Committee

From: Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning and Development
Mike Alguire, Purchasing Manager

Meeting Date: February 17, 2015

Subject: **Primary Public Safety Answering Position – Owen Sound Police Services Single Source**

Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution PCD31-15; Endorsed by County Council March 3, 2015 per Resolution CC45-15;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS the County of Grey is responsible for the provision and operation of the Primary Public Safety Answering Position for the 9-1-1 serving area under the current 9-1-1 Public Emergency Reporting Service Agreement with Bell Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Owen Sound Police Services dispatch currently operate the Primary Public Safety Answering Position of 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services for the County of Grey under contract which has been in place since the inception of 9-1-1 in Grey County;

AND WHEREAS the current annual fee is calculated at a rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per person per year based on the number of permanent residents within the 9-1-1 serving area;

AND WHEREAS the current contract includes provisions for negotiating the annual fee for providing this service;

AND WHEREAS the Owen Sound Police Services has suggested an increase to fifty six cents (\$0.56) per permanent resident per year which represents a 12 percent increase from the current rate which commenced in 2009;

AND WHEREAS it is important to maintain the integrity of the integrated 9-1-1 Public Emergency Reporting System that currently exists throughout Grey County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Owen Sound Police Services be contracted as a single source for continuing to operate the Primary Public Safety Answering Position of 9-1-1 Emergency Response Services for Grey County at a rate of fifty six cents (\$0.56) per person per year based on the number of permanent residents;

AND THAT staff be directed to prepare a contractual agreement with Owen Sound Police Services and to bring the agreement forward with the appropriate by-law for Council's consideration.

Background

The County of Grey is responsible for the provision and operation of the Primary Public Safety Answering Position (PPSAP) for the 9-1-1 serving area under the current 9-1-1 Public Emergency Reporting Service (PERS) Agreement with Bell Canada. The Owen Sound Police Services dispatch has operated the PPSAP for the County of Grey under contract since the inception of 9-1-1 in Grey County which commenced in the late 90's.

In 2009, Council considered whether or not to issue a Request for Proposal for the provision of the PPSAP service. Council decided to single source the service to Owen Sound Police Services and to renegotiate a contract on the basis of maintaining the integrity of the 9-1-1 Public Emergency Reporting System.

The current annual fee that is paid to the Owen Sound Police Services for the operation of the PPSAP is calculated at a rate of fifty cents (\$0.50) per person per year based on the number of permanent residents within the 9-1-1 serving area. In 2014, the annual rate paid to Owen Sound Police Services was \$46,284 (based on 2011 census population – 92,568 permanent residents).

The current contractual agreement includes provisions for negotiating the annual fee for providing this service within the 4th and 5th year of the contract which would have been in 2012 and 2013. Owen Sound Police Services did not request a rate increase at that time. The County has recently received a letter from the Owen Sound Police Services suggesting that the rate be increased to \$0.56 which works out to an increase of 12% from the rate that has been in place since 2009 (which works out to be a 2% (\$0.01) increase per year over the past 6 years). Given the costs to maintain the system as well as the cost of living increases that have occurred over the past seven years, this appears to be a reasonable price increase.

For comparison purposes, staff researched what some of the other Counties were paying per resident to operate their PPSAP and the results are identified below:

- Bruce County – currently at \$0.50 per resident, proposed increase to \$0.56 per resident (Owen Sound Police Services)
- Wellington County - \$0.561 per resident (Ontario Provincial Police)
- Elgin County – \$0.79 per resident (Northern911)
- Dufferin County - \$1.76 per resident (Orangeville Police Service)
- Huron County – currently at \$0.37 per resident, increasing to \$0.40 per resident on April 1, 2015 (Northern911)

In order to maintain the integrity of the 9-1-1 Public Emergency Reporting System that currently exists throughout Grey County, staff are recommending the Owen Sound Police Services be contracted as a single source for continuing to operate the PPSAP at a rate of \$0.56 per person per year based on the number of permanent residents.

Should Council support single sourcing this service to Owen Sound Police Services, staff will prepare a new contractual agreement with Owen Sound Police Services and bring the agreement forward with the appropriate by-law for Council's consideration. The new agreement will be processed through the County's Agreement Review process prior to bringing this forward for Council's consideration.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

The proposed 2015 budget includes funds for the Primary Public Safety Answering Point totaling \$51,000. The amount budgeted was more than what was paid in 2014 as staff were anticipating a request from Owen Sound Police Services to increase the rates. Based on the suggested rate of \$0.56, the cost for the PPSAP in 2015 would be \$51,838 which is based on the 2011 census data. Therefore, there are sufficient funds proposed in the 2015 Civic Addressing budget to support the rate increase should Council support the increase. Should the population increase in the 2016 census, the rate paid per year could increase.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted by,

Randy Scherzer
Director of Planning and Development

Mike Alguire
Purchasing Manager