

CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R076 COUNCIL DATE: April 12, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: April 12, 2010

FROM: Fire Chief FILE: 0760-00

General Manager, Finance & Techology

SUBJECT: Enhancements to the Central Training Facility for Surrey Fire Services

RECOMMENDATION:

The Fire Services Department and the Finance and Technology Department recommend that Council approve the expenditure of \$950,000 from sundry sources within the Fire Services budget for the construction of enhancements and replacements to the fire fighter training facility located on the City land at 14923 – 64th Avenue to the immediate north of Fire Hall No. 9.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the construction of a fire services training site in Newton that would serve Surrey Fire Services and would be available for use by others in the Province on a rental basis.

BACKGROUND:

The property located at 14923 – 64th Avenue, north of Fire Hall No. 9 is the site of the Central Training Facility (CTF) for the Surrey Fire Department. This location is geographically central to the City, which allows for efficient access by on duty crews from all sectors of the City. The site currently provides office space for fire department training officers, a classroom and facilities for confined space and trench rescue. Basic interior structural firefighting training and simulated rescues are conducted in an existing garage at the CTF.

A second training centre, called South Training Centre, is adjacent to Fire Hall No. 17 on 32 Avenue near 152 Street. It has been used extensively for automobile extrication training and other scenario-based training. Over time the ability to undertake certain types of training at the South Training Centre has become more difficult due to the nuisance that it creates for the residents of adjacent recently constructed residential development. If the recommendations of this report are approved the site that is currently used for the South Training Centre, that has an

area of approximately 1 acre, will be returned to the City's land inventory for disposition.

DISCUSSION:

Realistic controlled training environments allow fire fighters to be trained so that they are both effective and have due regard for their safety in dealing with emergency situations they face in their roles as fire fighters while developing team coordination. Realistic training situations prepare emergency workers to make effective decisions under high stress situations and to safely apply their skills when they face the demands of emergency situations.

For structural firefighting purposes, the current CTF facility is limited. The National Fire Protection "Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications" identifies the job performance requirements for structural firefighting, which include fire suppression "at grade level and above and below grade levels". "At grade level" structural fire training is currently accomplished using a non-combustible 20 foot intermodal container attached to an existing structure. With the increase in the number of high rise structures in Surrey, it is increasingly important to train and maintain firefighter skills in the methods for above and below grade firefighting.

It is proposed that the Central Training Facility on 64 Avenue adjacent to Fire Hall No. 9 be fitted out as follows:

- **Structural Firefighting Training:** Assemble a live fire training building that uses intermodal containers as building blocks and propane as the fuel source for in methods for addressing structural fires.
- Water Capture and Treatment Facilities: Introduce facilities to capture water used during training exercises so that it does not enter sensitive environmental areas.
- Auto Extrication Pad and Oil Separator: Pad for positioning of vehicles for auto extrication training and to capture and treat potential contaminants on site.
- Hard Surfacing and catch basins: Hard surface the site to control and manage runoff and ensure reasonable training opportunities in all weather conditions.
- **Hydrant relocation and Additions**: Hydrants will be installed to provide a water supply that meets the fire suppression requirements of the NFPA 1403 standard for fire training.
- **Confined Space Prop Relocation:** Relocation and updating of the existing confined space rescue infrastructure.
- Emergency Vehicle Low Speed Maneuverability Training: The construction of a low speed maneuverability course within the existing space that meets the requirements of the NFPA 1002 Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications.

• **Landscaping:** Landscaping will be installed to ensure that the site has reasonable aesthetics and to enhance site privacy.

Structural Fire Training Building:



The standard known as NFPA 1001 "above grade fire", representative of multiresidential apartments and high rise buildings and the standard known as NFPA 1001 "below grade fire" representative of basements and underground parking lots requires that a new training building be constructed as generally illustrated on this page. The building will generate an income from others that would find the site convenient as a training location.

Funding for the Project:

Funding for the project is available from sundry sources within the Fire Services budget.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the expenditure of \$950,000 from sundry sources within the Fire Services budget for the construction of enhancements and replacements to the fire fighter training facility located on the City land at 14923 – 64th Avenue to the immediate north of Fire Hall No. 9.

Len Garis Fire Chief Vivienne Wilke General Manager Finance and Technology