

time to get out of a dangerous atmosphere. This change in SCBA equipment and the necessary air pressure for new Scott Air Paks necessitated also purchasing a new compressor and fill station.

In January 2018, before a new compressor and fill station could be purchased, the CHVFD failed two consecutive air quality tests for their breathing apparatus. CHVFD had to immediately repair their SCBA fill station and compressor for fire fighter safety, due to contamination from the compressor failing. The repairs were addressed through the CHVFD Operating Budget and resulted in the fill station being upgraded to the 4500 PSI air pressure requirements for the new SCBA. The new compressor was installed in May of this year and now the CHVFD is in need of completing the purchase of the Scott Air Paks for the firefighters.

A Request for Tender for replacement SCBA equipment was publicly posted on April 27, 2018. The RFT issued was specific to sourcing Scott Air Pak equipment which provides a robust warranty with support available on Vancouver Island. The new Scott Air Pak system will provide a longer supply of breathing air, are considered to be very reliable, are widely used in the fire industry, and have a predicted life span of 30 years.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board award the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus contract to Guillevin International at a cost of \$227,700.53 before tax to be funded by the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Service capital reserve fund.
2. That alternative direction be provided to staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Coombs-Hilliers' 2018 approved budget provided \$260,000 from reserves for the SCBA equipment purchase as well as for replacement of the compressor required for filling the SCBA units.

The cost of twenty five (25) SCBA units, plus related equipment, is \$227,700.53 before taxes (PST & GST). With the cost added for the new compressor (\$48,394 + tax), the total budget impact is \$276,094.53 which is \$16,094.53 higher than the anticipated costs that were included and approved in the 2018 budget. The capital reserve fund for CHVFD has sufficient additional funds to offset the additional cost for the breathing apparatus without impacting the Coombs-Hilliers five year capital purchase plan.

Of note, the CHVFD projects an annual reduction in operating costs of approximately \$4,500 per year due to reduced maintenance costs that will be realized from the purchase of the new SCBA equipment.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Ensuring the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) fire departments are provided with effective and reliable firefighting equipment is reflected under the RDN Strategic Priority of supporting Emergency Services as a core element of community safety. As well, the strategic purchase of equipment that is compatible with other fire departments in the RDN and that has been proven to provide long-term

service to fire departments also supports the Strategic Priority of funding infrastructure in support of our core services employing an asset management focus.



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Reviewed by:

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