

City Council Report

REPORT NUMBER 139-2026-Infrastructure & Operations-Engineering

DATE

PREPARED

March 10, 2026

FILE

CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE

April 7, 2026

SUBJECT

Budget Appropriation – Hammond Fire Training Centre Expansion

RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

WITH RESPECT to Report 139-2026-Infrastructure & Operations-Engineering we recommend that the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre Expansion capital project be approved in the amount of \$1,093,920, funded by external grants;

AND THAT Appropriations 28-2025 and 6-2026 be approved to establish the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) grants as the funding source for the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre Expansion capital project;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to City Council for ratification.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thunder Bay Fire Rescue receives grant monies from the Province to operate the Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Provincial response teams. Administration is recommending these funds be consolidated and used to construct an addition to the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre for the purposes of housing training and response apparatus in the facility that will support our Provincial response teams and fire fighters. An appropriation is required to establish the capital project budget and move the grant money received into the 2024 and 2025 budget into the 2026 capital budget to proceed with the work.

This administrative task is undertaken in accordance with the City's Budget Policy and Procedures. Appropriations 28-2025 and 6-2026 reflect the reallocation of funding, with no additional municipal contribution required.

DISCUSSION

Through an agreement with the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue (TBFR) has received grant money annually for Hazardous

materials (HAZMAT) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Provincial response teams since 2019. These grants are used to provide training and purchase capital equipment that support the USAR and HAZMAT response teams. In addition to capital money available for Fire facilities renewal, some of the HAZMAT and USAR provincial funding has been accumulated over several years to fund the Training Centre expansion.

Over the last number of years it has become apparent that the space required to house additional apparatus was at a premium, and plans were made to allocate some of this funding to an expansion of the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre. This addition allows TBFR to set-up a response readiness area and store response equipment in a warm building for the USAR response apparatus, which was previously at Station 7. Also, it will allow the relocation of apparatus from Station 3 to Station 7 to allow space for the mechanics to store reserve apparatus or apparatus in need of repair.

Administration is recommending the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre Expansion capital project be approved by City Council in the amount of \$1,093,920, funded by external grants. Appropriation 28-2025 and 6-2026 will transfer the HAZMAT and USAR grants towards this project. There is not additional municipal contribution required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

There are no direct financial implications to this Report. Appropriations 28-2025 and 06-2026 would transfer existing grant funding to the Hammond Avenue Fire Training Centre Expansion capital project. The total project budget would be \$1,093,920.

BACKGROUND

NONE

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Appropriation 6-2026 – Fire Training Centre Renovations
Appropriation 28-2025 – USAR HAZMAT 2024 2025

REPORT PREPARED BY

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REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY

Kayla Dixon, Commissioner – Infrastructure & Operations
March 31, 2026