

Ministry of the Solicitor General

**Office of the Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management**

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MEMORANDUM TO: CAO Michael Di Lullo
Clerk James Hutson
Fire Chief Colin Toth

FROM: Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal

DATE: March 11th, 2021

SUBJECT: Fire Safety Grant Announcement

Earlier today, the Government of Ontario announced a one time \$5M grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the pandemic, Ontario's fire services have faced unprecedented challenges and have voiced those concerns to me as Fire Marshal. The ability to train fire service members in a COVID environment brought with it new restrictions and despite opportunities to train online and through other modes, I know that not all training priorities may have been met over the last year. In addition, my office has heard concerns from fire departments about fire code enforcement and the ability to enter premises to conduct inspections and promote fire safety. It is hoped that this grant will work to support fire services through this period of uncertainty and ongoing challenges.

I am pleased to advise that the Municipality of Middlesex Centre is eligible to receive up to **\$8,800.00** as part of this grant program.

The grant is intended to provide fire departments with the flexibility to support two priority areas. First, this grant may be put towards ongoing training needs including registration, administrative programming, technology upgrades and associated costs for attending as well for providing services. In addition, if code compliance and inspections continue to be challenging, addressing opportunities for an inspection program may include technology, capital costs and training to ensure that fire services are able to meet the demand of this need at the local level.

In order to receive funds, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) requires that the attached application be submitted by a representative of the municipality. As decisions regarding

the grant may not have time to proceed to municipal council for approval within the timeframes identified below, my office would be comfortable with the fire chief accepting the grant in principle on behalf of the municipality, pending formal approval from the council. To help facilitate this process, once the grant applications are approved, I will send the respective fire chief a letter of intent that will be contingent upon council's deliberations. In order to allocate funds before March 31, 2021, all applications must be received by my office no later than March 19, 2021. In addition, as a condition of the grant, these funds must be spent by August 1, 2021, and a report back to the Fire Marshal will be required by September 1, 2021, to outline how the grant was utilized at the department level.

Completed agreements should be sent by email to the Office of the Fire Marshal at ofm@ontario.ca. If you have any questions about this grant, do not hesitate to reach out to your Fire Protection Adviser.

Yours truly,

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal