

# Request for Decision City Council



## Type of Decision

Meeting Date	April 28, 2005				Report Date	April 22, 2005			
Decision Requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low
	Direction Only				Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open	<input type="checkbox"/>	Closed

## Report Title

**2004 - 2005 MOHLTC Diagnostic and Medical Equipment Grant**

### Policy Implication + Budget Impact

This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.

No impact on current budget.

Background Attached

### Recommendation

THAT the special grant of \$137,010 received from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care be credited to the Reserve Fund for Emergency Services -Ambulance.

Recommendation Continued

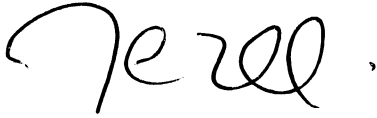
### Recommended by the Department Head

Alan Stephen  
General Manager Infrastructure and Emergency Services

### Recommended by the C.A.O.

  
Mark Metz  
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: May 6, 2005

**Report Prepared By**Joseph Nicholls, Chief  
Emergency Medical Services**Division Review****Executive Summary**

The Ontario Government has announced a special grant for the replacement of medical diagnostic and treatment equipment. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has determined that the City of Greater Sudbury is eligible to receive \$137,010 for 2004-05. This grant money must be used for the items listed on the Sign-back Agreement for Municipalities and Designated Delivery Agents that was recently signed by the CAO and returned to the MOHLTC.

The 2004 -05 Land Ambulance Medical Equipment Grant of \$137,010 is reserved for diagnostic and treatment equipment as such and shall be placed into the Emergency Services - Land Ambulance Reserve Account for Medical Equipment.

**Background**

It is the intent of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, by way of this grant, to improve local patient care by upgrading and enhancing existing medical diagnostic and treatment equipment in our land ambulance service. This grant will ensure that Ontario patients receive the services that they need, expect and to which they are entitled.

In order for land ambulance services to receive this grant the following eligibility criteria was established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care:

- "Replacement only" ambulances, patient diagnostic and treatment equipment (not equipment to establish new services);
- Items for consideration under this program must be at least 54 months old, or older, oldest items to be considered for replacement first;
- Replacement items of equipment must adhere to applicable provincial ambulance services vehicle and equipment standards;
- Costs, non refundable GST, for equipment acquired between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005;
- Costs must be supported by proof of paid invoices submitted to the Ministry and verified through independent audit, as required by the Ministry;
- Equipment that relates only to the provision of insured services.

Date: May 6, 2005

Costs which will not be funded under this grant include:

- Costs associated with information technology;
- Costs for equipment procured through a lease agreement;
- Costs for equipment for the provision of services that do not currently exist in the service;
- Additional operating costs that may result from the purchase of the replacement item, including related maintenance costs;
- Costs for equipment items that do not directly relate to patient care (e.g. administration offices, business systems);
- Costs that have been, or are eligible to be funded through an alternative ministry capital or other federal grant initiative;
- Operational expense items (supplies or consumables);
- Equipment items collectively valued at less than five hundred dollars;
- Costs for investigational devices.

The following eligible, equipment costs have been submitted for approval to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care with these items having already been purchased through the 2004 Capital Budget and which were funded from the Reserve Fund:

- One (1) type III Ambulance at a cost of \$101,905; and
- Two (2) Zoll defibrillators at a cost of \$24,600 each

for a total of \$ 151,105, of which \$137,010 is to be funded under the 2004-2005 MOHLTC Diagnostic and Medical Equipment grant process.

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Report Title
Ward Boundaries

Policy Implication + Budget Impact	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Background Attached

Recommendation
That Council adopt Option ____ as the preferred model for ward boundaries for the term of Council beginning in 2006 and that staff be directed to take the steps necessary to implement the option selected, with funding in the amount of approximately \$ _____ to be provided from the Reserve for Elections.
Recommendation Continued

**Recommended by the Department Head**

  
 Caroline Hallsworth, Executive Director  
 Administrative Services Department

**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

  
 Mark Mieto  
 Chief Administrative Officer

**Report Prepared By**

Caroline Hallsworth, Executive Director  
Administrative Services Department

**Division Review**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the Fourth Special Meeting of Council, Council directed that a governance structure review be identified in the work plan for 2005. As work is beginning on planning for the 2006 Municipal Election, it is timely to review ward boundaries as part of that governance review process. Two options on ward boundaries are presented for Council's consideration, which options are:

- Option One: Retain the six ward model, with two councillors per ward
- Option Two: Provide notice of the municipality's intention to pass a by-law to re-divide wards into a twelve ward model with one councillor per ward and direct that a public meeting be held to consider the matter.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Ward Based Electoral Systems:**

The right to vote should include equal and effective representation. Equal representation means that each vote carries equal weight, regardless of where the voter lives. Effective representation means that voters have an equitable opportunity to access their elected representation and that there is a balance between distinct groups and the broader population base. A ward based electoral system is structured to ensure equal representation from all areas in a community and direct contact between representatives and the citizens whom they represent.

**Sudbury 2001, Report by the Special Advisor, Hugh Thomas:**

At the time of Transition, Hugh Thomas was appointed as the Special Advisor on Local Government Reform for the Sudbury Region. Mr. Thomas was tasked with making recommendations to the Provincial Government on a number of elements, including council and ward structure. In assessing options for the new municipality, Mr. Thomas was asked to consider a system that had "fewer municipal politicians while maintaining accessible, effective, accountable representation, taking into consideration population and community identity."

The Thomas Report found that “Communities are not formed by boundaries, but by common interests.” In his discussion of ward structure, Mr. Thomas found that Council cohesion was “impeded by the underlying problems associated with the fact that councillors tend to represent communities that are identified by the former municipal boundaries” and recommended that to avoid “the continuation of the inside versus outside debates” that a new ward structure be implemented. In summarizing “common concerns” received through public submissions, the Thomas Report found that the “the public favoured larger wards and fewer politicians.”

The Thomas Report recommended that the municipality be divided into six wards, with two members of Council elected to each ward. This proposed ward design was recommended based on a number of principles which focused on:

- *reducing the inside/outside friction*
- *a council size sufficient to provide representation of two councillors per ward*
- *the problem of dominance by any one area*
- *enhancing the ability of council to set priorities and long-term goals*
- *creating a feeling of “ownership” amongst politicians*
- *enhancing the working relationship between the council and staff, who will have one common goal*
- *results in wards of relatively equal population*
- *recognizes the component of the municipality where French is predominant*
- *results in a voting system where councillors, in addition to the mayor, view the broader community good*

### **Citizen’s Committee Ward Boundary Review Report, 2002:**

Appointed by Council in 2002, the Citizen’s Committee for Ward Boundary Review was mandated to lead a public consultation process as to how to “divide the current six wards, with two members each, into twelve single member wards”. Council directed that the following criteria be used in recommending new ward boundaries:

- *Representation by population will be the primary factor in determining new ward boundaries*
- *New ward boundaries involve the fewest changes possible*
- *Communities of interest and land use diversity should be encouraged, but not at the expense of population fluctuations of more than 25%*

The Citizen's Committee's review of ward boundaries involved extensive public consultations. Letters were sent to all members of Council and to the four school boards, requesting their input as some school board trustees are elected to represent municipal wards. An extensive advertising campaign encouraged public commentary. An Open House and Public Meeting was held on May 23, 2002 at which time the proposed new ward boundaries provided a forum for public input on the proposed model.

The Committee considered a variety of models for division of each of the existing wards, and reviewed each model against four criteria:

- *Representation by Population*
- *Community of Interest*
- *Recognition of distinct geographic features*
- *Accounts for future population loss/growth*

Each proposed ward in the twelve ward model was tested to ensure it met all of these criteria, with the greatest emphasis being on ensuring representation by population. In the twelve ward model, four wards are a mixture of urban and rural communities, three wards are comprised entirely of rural areas and five wards are primarily urban in nature.

The Citizen's Committee for Ward Boundary Review presented their report to Council on May 30, 2002. Following first and second reading of the By-Law, a Public Hearing was held to discuss dividing the City into twelve, single-member wards. The third reading of the by-law was a tie vote and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, the motion was lost.

#### **Process for Change:**

Should Council select an option which makes changes to the current ward structure, sufficient time must be allowed to ensure that a number of processes are completed prior to the municipal election of November 2006.

The Municipal Act states that "a municipality may divide or redivide the municipality into wards or dissolve the existing wards". However, it is a requirement of the Municipal Act that "before passing a by-law" to divide or redivide wards, the municipality "shall give notice of its intention to pass the by-law and hold at least one public meeting to consider the matter." (Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, s. 222).

Following the passage of a by-law to divide or redivide the municipality's wards, the Clerk must provide notice to the electors, which notice triggers a period for electors to file an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. The Clerk's Department has reviewed recent court and board decisions from across Canada, with regards to ward boundary matters and found that in considering these matters, courts and boards tend to play particular attention to the process of review and that they examine in detail the criteria used by the Council in developing new boundaries. Should the by-law be appealed, the matter would need to be heard and a decision rendered by the Ontario Municipal Board prior to December 31, 2005 if the new boundaries were to be implemented in time for the 2006 municipal election as candidate registration for the 2006 election begins on January 1, 2006.

The ward boundary model developed by the Citizen's Committee on Ward Boundary Review was undertaken using 1996 Census data. Should a twelve ward model be adopted and prior to its implementation, data from the 2000 census and the 2004 assessment would need to be reviewed to ensure that the proposed boundaries continue to meet the established criteria for the boundary review.

Work has already begun in identifying suitable poll locations for the 2006 election. Should the number of wards be increased, there would need to be a complete re-polling and there could be a need to change those polling locations that are located adjacent to the ward boundaries. If the number of wards were increased from six to twelve, the number of ballot types would increase from 30 to 60 which would impact on staff resources required to support the election.

A public education campaign will be required to educate voters as to any changes to the ward system and to ensure that voters are aware of their new ward and changes to the way in which councillors are elected.

<b>Activity and Cost</b>	<b>Option One</b>	<b>Option Two</b>
<b>Metes and Bounds Survey</b>	\$6,000	\$8,000
<b>Advertising</b>	No additional advertising required	\$7,400
<b>Staff Time</b>	No additional staff time required	\$8,500
<b>Mapping</b>	No additional mapping required	\$5,000
<b>Voter Education</b>	No additional voter education required	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL Additional cost by option</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$35,900</b>



Date: April 20, 2005

These costs would be charged to the Election Reserve Account as are all internal charges related to elections. Additional costs would be incurred should any changes to the current ward system be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. The balance currently in the Reserve is approximately \$200,000.

**Option One: Retain the six ward model, with two councillors per ward**

This model retains the status quo in which there are six wards, with two councillors representing each ward. The model of larger wards was developed during the transition period with a goal of balancing the needs of the predecessor communities with a broader community perspective so as to avoid "inside/outside" debates. The ward structure was designed to ensure equal and balanced representation by population and recognition of appropriate communities of common interest.

**Option Two: Provide notice of the municipality's intention to pass a by-law to re-divide wards into a twelve ward model with one councillor per ward and direct that a public meeting be held to consider the matter.**

The twelve ward model, with a single councillor per ward is predicated on the twelve ward model as recommended to Council in the *Citizen's Committee Ward Boundary Review Report*. Background materials contained in the *Report on Ward Boundary Review* suggest that the twelve ward model, with each ward representing a smaller segment of the population might result in changes in voter patterns and encourage a higher level of candidate and voter participation as smaller, single member wards provide an effective and more direct link between the councillor and their constituents.

**CONCLUSION:**

An electoral system structured to ensure equal representation from all areas in a community and direct contact between representatives and the citizens whom they represent is a fundamental right in a democratic society. Council has two options to consider in selecting a ward system for the 2006 - 2009 term of Council:

Option One: Retain the six ward model, with two councillors per ward

Option Two: Provide notice of the municipality's intention to pass a by-law to re-divide wards into a twelve ward model with one councillor per ward and direct that a public meeting be held to consider the matter.

Provided under separate cover are copies of the *Citizen's Committee Report on Ward Boundary Review* and *Sudbury 2001, The Report by the Special Advisor, Hugh Thomas*, both of which description in detail options for equal and effective community representation.