



Budget09

Fire Services
Budget Options

November 17, 2008

Departmental Submissions

Description	Staffing	Permanent	One-time	2009 Increase
Hire 1 permanent staff - Breathing Air Technician	1	65,000	78,000	143,000
Hire 1 permanent staff - Clerical position	1	59,000		59,000

1. This Budget Option seeks Council's approval to hire one permanent full time Breathing Air Technician.



Canadian Standards Association Z-94 is the standard that covers breathing air programs including fit testing for all workers wearing respirators; servicing of breathing apparatus; plus very strict controls on breathing air compressors including maintenance and testing of the air quality. This standard must be complied with. CGS Fire is in dire need of a technician to manage its own fleet of 200 plus breathing apparatus and 8 air compressors.


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All these regulations must be complied to ensure that our Fire Fighters have safe breathing air. We have a legal responsibility under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure that these standards are followed at all times. We are also required to maintain detailed records on equipment maintenance and air quality testing.



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To date we have contracted out most of this work. Initially, this made good business sense; the breathing apparatus was new and under warranty. Since then, the warranty has run out and we are now paying the full cost of parts and labour for servicing.

We are also legally mandated to perform fit tests for all of our staff on a regular basis. Staff each require a fit test for both the N-95 masks and for the MSA face piece. Therefore, we requires two fit tests for every staff member for a total of approximately 1,000 tests. The task of performing these fit tests would become the responsibility of the Air Technician.



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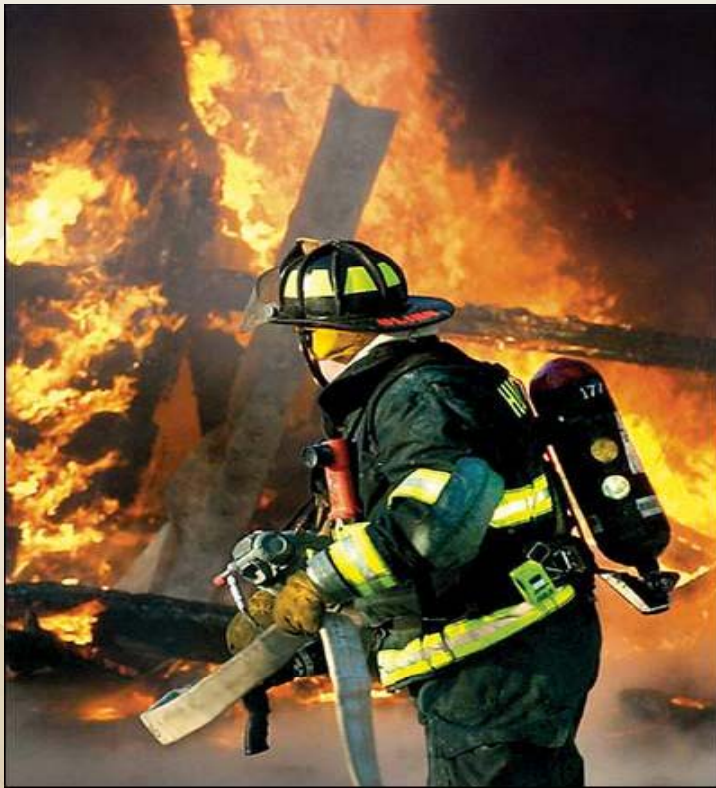
In addition to regular maintenance and servicing to the air compressors we are required to conduct air quality tests on each of our 8 air compressors twice annually.

This position will give the Fire Service an increased ability to maintain this organization at the CSA Z-94 standard. The Breathing Air Technician would also contribute to reducing the backlog of work in our Fleet and Equipment Section. There would be a one time cost for the purchase of equipment and a vehicle.



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The position of Air Technician was approved and was part of the 2004 budget. However, in 2005 that position was moved to Emergency Planning and Strategic Services. The fire complement for 2005 did not include the Air Technician . The problem occurred between 2005 and 2006 when the Division was restructured and the Air Technician was not budgeted for in the 2006 document.




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- 2. The second Budget Option seeks Council's approval to hire one permanent full time Clerical position.**

An additional clerical support position is required due to the high level of support required to maintain our operation. This includes supporting the Senior Officers within the Fire Service; the Fleet - Equipment Coordinator (we have over 90 vehicles alone), the Platoon Chiefs (x4), and the District Chiefs (x4), with relieving them of routine administrative and clerical work.




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The Fire Services is regulated by the Ministry of Labour to maintain and have in place up to date Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). These SOP's need to be completely reviewed and re-organized up to current standards, which has not been done over the past 6 years at least, due to a lack of clerical resources. This is a multi-year project requiring a great deal of clerical support, as currently we have approximately 190 Procedures and Guidelines, along with many additional Operating Procedures which yet have to be drafted and finalized due to the lack of resources.



This additional position will have a positive effect on the quality and quantity of work performed by our Senior Officers, and will place the Fire Service in an excellent position to make huge improvements in our operating standards. This will enhance our service delivery and our Fire Fighters' safety.



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Thank You

Questions