
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report FPC-04-2019 Emergency Purchase for Tree Maintenance For Consideration by Council in Committee on October 29, 2019



OBJECTIVE:

To advise Council of an emergency purchase to conduct tree removal operations in response to July 19, 2019 storm damage and to seek Council approval for a capital budget amendment to accommodate additional high risk tree removals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report FPC-04-2019 Emergency Purchase for Tree Maintenance be received;
2. AND THAT the Revised Budget as outlined in Report FPC-04-2019 be approved.

Prepared by: Adam Chamberlin, Project Manager, Forestry

Reviewed by: David Pressey, Manager, Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries and Forestry Operations

Respectfully submitted: Philip Mete, P. Eng., General Manager of Public Works Operations

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of an emergency purchase made to remove and clean up storm damaged trees in the amount of \$58,000 and to seek approval for a budget amendment in the amount of \$89,100 to accommodate this emergency purchase as well as the removal of additional high risk trees in accordance with Procurement Policy 2013-02.

BACKGROUND:

On July 19, 2019 a micro-burst thunderstorm caused significant damage to trees throughout Haldimand County with the majority of the damage occurring in Dunnville. During this storm, several trees struck buildings and Broad Street was closed due to fallen trees and debris.

After the award of the FPC-02-2019 Roads Tree Maintenance contract, staff have become aware of additional high risk trees that had not been previously inspected, as well as existing trees that have deteriorated since they were last inspected. It is very likely that these trees will fail before the next regular maintenance contract.

Permission was received from the General Manager of Public Works to proceed with an emergency purchase as per the Procurement Policy 2013-02. In accordance with Section 4.03 K(ii)(c) of the Procurement Policy, this report is being presented to seek Council approval of the funding source, as well as to amend the budget to include those trees that are anticipated to fail before the next regular maintenance contract.

ANALYSIS:

Through regular inspections staff attempt to proactively conduct tree maintenance operations before trees fail in order to protect public safety, promote tree health and be fiscally responsible. Weather events are unpredictable and once wind speeds exceed 80 kilometers per hour, even healthy trees without defects, can fail.

Most of the trees that were impacted during the July 19, 2019 storm were mature Silver Maples with large, healthy and full canopies. The tree canopies acted like sails increasing the stress on the tree's trunk and branches. During the peak of the storm, wind gusts exceeded 90 kilometers per hour and these stresses caused the trees to fail.

Staff conducted an assessment of each damaged tree to prioritize work and identify which trees presented an immediate risk to public health and safety as well as which tree maintenance could be deferred to the regular maintenance schedule.

Staff accommodated as much of the work as possible within the contingencies provided in the FPC-02-2019 Roads Tree Maintenance contact, however, the extent of the storm damage exceeded the contingency budget. An emergency purchase in the amount of \$58,000 was completed in accordance with the Procurement Policy 2013-02 for situations when there is an imminent or actual danger to the life, health or safety of the public.

It is estimated that a capital budget increase in the amount of \$30,000 is required to accommodate the removal of these high risk trees this year, in addition to the \$58,000 increase required to accommodate the emergency purchase. The contractor is on track to complete the regularly scheduled maintenance within the project timelines and can accommodate this additional work. Staff have reviewed other capital projects and determined that there are either insufficient funds to cover the costs for the emergency tree maintenance and the additional high risk tree maintenance or a reallocation of funds was not readily available without compromising work in progress.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2019 Tax Supported Capital Budget currently includes \$421,600 for the removal and replacement of roadside trees with funding as outlined below. For the above note reasons, staff propose a revision to the budget as follows:

	Current Approved Budget	Changes	Proposed Revised Budget
Expenditures:			
Roadside – Remove and Replace Trees	421,600		421,600
Emergency Tree Removal (including non-rebateable HST)		59,100	59,100
Additional High Risk Tree Removal Contract Increase		30,000	30,000
Total Expenditures:	421,600	89,100	510,700
Financing:			
Recoveries*	(38,480)		(38,480)
CRR – Roads Infrastructure	(383,120)	(89,100)	(472,220)
Total Financing:	(421,600)	(89,100)	(510,700)

- * Note: Recoveries are a result of revenues collected pursuant to the County's Forestry Conservation By-law and from harvesting of Haldimand County owned woodlots, as directed through PED-GM-02-2015 RE: Haldimand County Tree Management.

There are currently sufficient funds within the Capital Replacement Reserve – Roads Infrastructure to accommodate this budget increase.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

None