



## **The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**Prepared by:** Ed Thiessen, Deputy Fire Chief  
**Department:** Fire Services  
**Date of Report:** May 21, 2019  
**Report Number:** **Fire 20-06**  
**Subject:** Radio Communications Study Summary Report

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### **Recommendation**

That the report of the Deputy Fire Chief of LaSalle dated July 21, 2020 (Fire 20-06) regarding the Radio Communications Study BE RECEIVED.

### **Report**

Some radio communication challenges experienced by the fire service in recent past, as well as some question regarding the anticipated life cycle of some of the Town's radio communication infrastructure, led to a recommendation to seek professional advice on both current and future needs of all municipal radio users. A steering committee was established among the various user groups, chaired by the fire service and a tender was issued for a Radio Communications Study in 2018 (FIRE 18-12). Brightstar was awarded this work. Please note that during the term of this contract, Brightstar was bought by a company named Red Oak Technologies.

This project consisted of a three-phase approach. An inventory and analysis of our existing equipment led to Red Oak Technologies presenting four options to consider for the Town of LaSalle moving forward, when capital investment in radio communications infrastructure is required. These four options did address the scope of the tender and ranged from short term to long-term solutions. Cost of each option was difficult to estimate as there are a number of questions left to be answered. In particular, the implementation of Next Generation 911 system and the unknown availability of dedicated provincial emergency responder frequencies left the steering committee in a position unable to make immediate decisions. As a result, the vendor prepared a decision tree for the steering committee to use in the future to guide staff (in the right

direction) as the currently unknown variables are better clarified. With the development of this decision tree, the scope of the tender was fulfilled.

The next step for the Radio Communications Steering Committee is to develop a project timeline and implementation strategy, including the implementation of the Next Generation 911 system, and available frequencies embedded in the options presented by Red Oak Technologies. The Steering Committee will reference the provided decision tree for guidance. The project timeline and implementation strategy will include a financial plan to be included in the budget process. This work will commence in the upcoming months, and will be the subject of a subsequent report to Council.

## **Consultations**

A number of vendor presentations and meetings were held throughout the project with members of the Radio Communications Steering Committee. Steering Committee members included the CAO, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Director of Public Works, Manager of IT, and members from both the Police and Fire services.

## **Financial Implications**

The eventual proposed radio solution will have financial implications but remain undetermined at this time.

## **Prepared By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Thiessen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deputy Fire Chief

Ed Thiessen

## Link to Strategic Goals

	Enhancing organizational excellence
yes	Sustain strong public services and infrastructure
	Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town
	Grow and diversify the local economy
	Build on our high-quality of life

## Communications

	Not applicable
	Website
	Social Media
	News Release
	Local Newspaper
yes	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

## Notifications

Name	Address	Email

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Radio Communications Study Summary Report.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 16, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Fire Chief

Dave Sutton



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia