



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Bruce Morrison, Deputy Fire Chief

DATE: April 7, 2026

REPORT NO.: CES-2026-012

SUBJECT: Fire Safety Grant

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive Report No. CES-2026-012 regarding the 2026-27 provincial Fire Protection Grant and New Capital Budget be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize the Town to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario for the receipt of \$51,334 in grant funding;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves a new 2026 capital project, 2026 Firefighter Health and Safety Initiative (project 5200-07-2602) in the amount of \$51,334 and that the required funding be financed by the \$51,334 Fire Protection Grant secured by the Town.

KEY POINTS:

The Town of Halton Hills has been successfully awarded \$51,334 through the Province of Ontario's 2026-27 Fire Protection Grant. This funding is dedicated to enhancing firefighter safety by addressing long-term health risks associated with occupational cancer. Specifically, the funds will be used for professional bunker gear inspections and the procurement of particulate-blocking hoods. This report seeks Council's approval to establish the necessary financial structures to receive and utilize these funds.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In late 2025, the Ontario government announced an expansion of the Fire Protection Grant to \$20 million annually to assist municipal fire services in managing emerging risks and health hazards.

Firefighters face a significantly higher risk of cancer compared to the general population due to exposure to toxic particulates and carcinogens during fire suppression activities. The 2026-27 grant cycle emphasizes "Cancer Prevention" as a primary pillar, supporting municipalities in maintaining Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the highest safety standards.

The awarded funding will be directed toward two critical safety initiatives for the Halton Hills Fire Department:

1. Professional Bunker Gear Inspections (Advanced Cleaning & Repair)

While routine cleaning is performed in-house, NFPA 1851 standards require "Advanced Inspections" to identify hidden degradation in the thermal and moisture barriers of bunker gear. These funds will allow for a comprehensive, third-party assessment of our current inventory to ensure no firefighter is wearing compromised protection.

2. Particulate-Blocking Hoods

Standard Nomex hoods provide thermal protection but allow microscopic carcinogens to reach the permeable skin around the jaw, neck, and throat—areas with high absorption rates. The grant will allow the Town to outfit all active personnel with advanced particulate-blocking hoods, which filter out 99.9% of harmful soot and particles.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This initiative aligns with the Town's Strategic Priority to be a safe and welcoming community where all people feel protected and connected.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

The Town's Finance staff were consulted during the preparation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report has an immediate financial impact and requires a funding source.

As discussed, the Town has successfully secured a Fire Protection Grant in the amount of \$51,334. This is a non-matching grant with the Province, providing 100% funding for eligible costs. The grant funding will enable the Town of Halton Hills to modernize essential life-safety equipment without any financial impact to local taxpayers. Implementation of these initiatives supports the Town’s ongoing commitment to enhancing the health, safety, and well-being of its frontline responders.

Project Component	Estimated Cost	Grant Funding	Net Town Cost
PPE Advanced Inspections	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
Particulate-Blocking Hoods	\$36,334	\$36,334	\$0
TOTAL	\$51,334	\$51,334	\$0

Staff are requesting approval for a new capital project, 2026 Firefighter Health and Safety Initiative (project 5200-07-2602) be created with a total budget of \$51,334 and that the required funding be financed by the \$51,334 Fire Protection Grant.

Reviewed and approved by,

Joseph Vandermeer, Treasurer

Martin Mills, Fire Chief & Director of Emergency Services

Jon Rehill, Commissioner of Corporate & Emergency Services

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer