

## Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

## 2018 Budget

One page brief per request

**Briefing Note required for:**

-items &gt;\$50,000

-changes in FTE

Dept	Division	Business Unit	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
CD	FES	14042	Alpha-numeric Paging System	S	406,000	

**Background:**

-Briefly provide why this is a request  
(eg. Based on 3 year history)

Managing a volunteer fire service in 2017 presents many more challenges than were present twenty years ago around amalgamation. With 17 or 19 stations dependent on the response of volunteer firefighters to deal with emergencies in their communities, a robust paging system that meets the current needs of the department is critical to ensure the timely response to those in need. Aligning with CK 2035 and Council's focus on a healthy and safe community, CKFES is looking to replace the current VHF paging solution. One of the biggest challenges faced by CKFES is that the current solution does not provide wide area coverage across the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Given the current economic conditions, many firefighters are having to work further away from home and as such having a paging solutions that alerts volunteer firefighters even when they are not in their home community is critical. Current practice is to send out the alert off of two separate towers to increase the coverage of the page. This is a time consuming process at a critical point in the 911 call taking process. Moving to an alphanumeric paging solution will reduce time to dispatch the appropriate resources to the scene.

**Comment:**

- provide any further details if required, impact to user fees, etc  
(eg. Gross expenses, any revenues, subsidies, etc.)

Moving from the traditional two-tone voice to alphanumeric paging will significantly reduce the capital cost of CKFES paging inventory by more than have. Currently to replace a lost or damaged pager it costs CKFES approximately \$600 per unit. In comparison to replace it with an alphanumeric pager its replacement cost would be less than \$300 per unit.

Additionally, by moving to an alphanumeric paging solution that provides wide area coverage with Chatham-Kent may present cost effective opportunities for other business units that may have a need for a paging solution.