

Supplementary Budget – Briefing Note

2021 Budget

Fibre Permitting Project

Briefing Note required for:

- items >\$50,000
- changes in FTE
- Corporate Strategic Initiatives

Dept	Division	Business Unit	Item	Base Supp	Amount	FTE Impact
IES	Engineering & Trans	Engineering/ Trans Special Proj	Fibre Permitting Project (2 years) – Technologist II Positions – (2 FTE’s); Technologist I Position – (1 FTE); Admin Assistant III Position (1 FTE); Rental Vehicle – To support requested positions; Laptops, workstations, software licenses and cell phones	S	\$836,585	8.0
IES	Engineering & Trans	Engineering/ Trans Special Proj	Funded from the Strategic Development Reserve	S	(\$836,585)	
			Total		\$0	8.0

Background:

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent and additional partners are working on initiatives to expand our community’s access to high-speed fibre optic cable. High-speed fibre is essential infrastructure to support economic development and the provision of health care and educational services. Many residents and businesses have requested high-speed fibre optics (also known as high-speed internet or high-speed broadband). Fibre is a solution that is considered as the next essential utility.

Council has supported the South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative where the goal is to provide internet connectivity that is equitable, affordable and accessible to users regardless of population density. Council has supported recommendations to hire staff dedicated to contract management for the Fibre to the Home projects.

There are a number of vendors who have initiated large scaled constructions of “fibre to the home” projects within the Municipality of Chatham-Kent. This has increased the demand for Municipal staff to assist with project timelines and implementation. The Municipality has hired contract staff (based on prior discussions and with Council direction) to meet the timelines and business requirements. Example: Staff provide support to the requests for infrastructure locate information, review technical drawings and provide the required permits to work in the Municipal right of way.

Comment:

This is expected to be a further 2 year project to be completed in 2022.

The project has been in operation since 2019 with 4 staff committed to the project. The team is composed of 1 Technologist I position, 2 Technologists II positions and 1 Administrative III position. All positions were contracted for a period up to 2 years subject to the vendors completing their projects within that time allotment. All of the vendors

Comment:

have expressed high interest and committed to continuing with new telecommunication (fibre) installations expanding now into the rural communities for 2021 and into 2022.