



**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** David Sparling  
**DATE:** 12/10/2016  
**SUBJECT:** Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus unable to meet latest NFPA Standards  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Promise Program letter

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby approve the report for information purposes.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

When FDNH was established, it purchased the assets of the Blyth and Wingham fire departments. The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) purchased both former departments are the same model and age. The latest revisions to NFPA Standards (1981/1982) for SCBA means that as of 2015, our current equipment no longer meets (nor is it able to be retrofitted to) these standards.

**DISCUSSION**

Currently FDNH uses 25 SCBA. Of these, 12 were purchased by the Blyth & District Fire Department under a lease to own program. The final lease payment is in 2018. As part of this lease to own program, these SCBA were to be kept to the most current NFPA Standards. The 2015 revisions to NFPA Standards resulted in the need for a full re-design. As such, the SCBA manufacturer has offered FDNH a credit of \$24,144 that can be applied towards related SCBA equipment. It is FDNH's intention to purchase equipment that can be used on our existing SCBA but later transferred to the next generation ones when we purchase them.

As all of our neighbouring fire departments use the same make and model as FDNH, we have started discussions about the possibility of joint procurement.

Do note that there is no legal requirement to meet NFPA equipment standards, however, failure to meet latest standards increases the risk to our personnel and to the municipality should an injury occur to personnel wearing sub-standard SCBA. Furthermore as our SCBA age and get further from the current models, maintenance will become costly and more difficult.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

FDNH had projected our current SCBA to be in service for 15 years (until 2022). The estimated cost to replace our SCBA will be approximately \$250,000 in 2016 dollars.

**FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

FDNH does not have the capital reserves to replace this equipment at this time, but this should be addressed prior to 2022, and if possible, in conjunction with our neighbours.

**RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 3. Ensure our community is healthy and safe.

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David Sparling,  
Director Fire & Emergency Services

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Sharon Chambers, CAO