

The Township of The Archipelago

Recommendation Report to Council

Report No.: PROT-2026-02

Date: April 16, 2026

Originator: Liam Thompson, Coordinator Protective Services

Subject: Execution of an Emergency Response Agreement with Seguin Township for the South Archipelago

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council authorize the execution of an agreement with the Township of Seguin for the provision of Emergency Response Services to the Southern Areas for the Township of The Archipelago.
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BACKGROUND

Since 2000, Council has maintained an inter-municipal agreement with the Township of Seguin to provide Emergency Response Services to the southern portion of The Archipelago. Council first authorised the arrangement by by-law 00-18 (effective May 12th, 2000). Throughout the successive iterations, the defined service scope has remained consistent, namely:

1. extrication or support for motor vehicle accidents,
2. Snowmobile Response Unit and related support, and
3. medical assist responses when requested by West Parry Sound Base Hospital Ambulance Service.

Operationally, the agreements have delineated a specific response area, provided Seguin Fire Services with incident command authority, and arranged reporting responsibilities. The Archipelago has also traditionally been released of liability by reason of any injury or damage sustained by the personnel, apparatus or equipment of Seguin's Fire Department.

In 2019 the agreement was renewed for a 3-year term, which expired on December 31st, 2022. Seguin Council then agreed to another 3-year term which expired on December 31st, 2025. An interim agreement was reached while the current iteration was being negotiated. The pending expiry necessitates the current negotiation and new draft agreement.

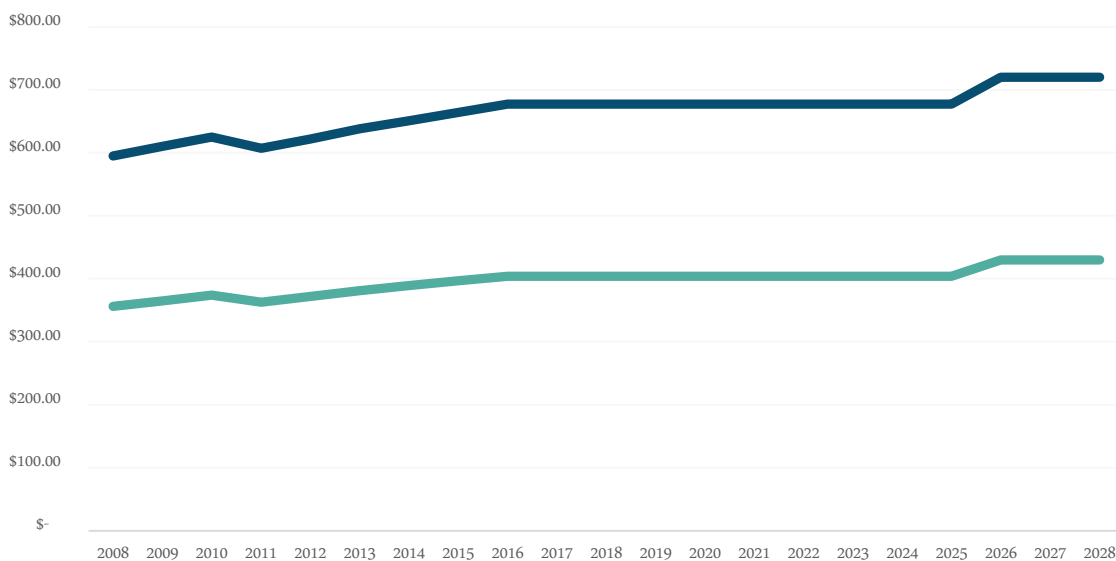
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Similar to previous iterations of the agreement, the proposed 2026-2028 version is structured on a pay per use model. The initial mobilization cost for the first hour is \$720.00 (increase from \$677.00) and any subsequent half hour is set at \$430.00 (increase from \$404.00). The annual cost of the agreement is based on total usage and has been budgeted for in the 2026 operating budget. Between 2023-2025, the annual response costs have ranged from \$1,400 (in 2024) to \$5,100 (in 2023), with 2025 falling within the high end of the range at \$4,900.

Compared to the previous version of the agreement, the 2026-2028 version observed a 6.4% increase in both the initial and subsequent cost rate. This increase is minor in nature and is due to increasing costs of equipment and providing emergency services. The last increase observed was during the 2016 iteration of the agreement which increased 2.0% for initial cost and 1.8% for subsequent costs. **FIGURE 1** below highlights the agreement costs throughout the last two decades, starting with 2008.

Total Agreement Operating Costs Over Time

Cost Initial (CI) and Cost Subsequent (CS)



Data source: Township of The Archipelago Emergency Response Agreements and by-laws 2008 – 2028 (projected). By-law numbers 2007-73, 2011-19, 2014-03, 2016-53, 2019-53, 2023-03, and draft proposed by-law 2026.

FIGURE 1 Total agreement costs 2008- projected 2028

ANALYSIS/OPTIONS

Option 1 – Recommended

That Council authorize the execution of an agreement with the Township of Seguin for the provision of Emergency Response Services to the Southern Areas for the Township of The Archipelago. Apart from minor wording updates and indemnification clause refinements, the proposed agreement includes the following substantive changes:

1. Formal mapping of an out-of-scope response area, being the Massasauga Provincial Park. The Seguin Fire Department does not have the capacity to provide medical response in the park's remote areas. This exclusion was not clearly identified in previous versions of the response area map.
2. An updated cost structure reflecting an increase, as outlined in the Financial Implications section.

The renewed agreement would be effective for a three-year term, expiring on December 31st, 2028.

Option 2 – Not Recommended

Address any concerns with the proposed Emergency Response Services Agreement. Delays or substantial changes could result in a lapse of coverage.

Option 3 – Not Recommended

Do not enter into the Emergency Response Services Agreement.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This direction is in alignment with the following Strategic Priorities contained within our Strategic Plan:

- Sustainable & Cost-Effective Services
 - Effective Relationships & Partnerships
 - Leadership & Communications
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CONCLUSION

That Council authorize the execution of an agreement with the Township of Seguin for the provision of Emergency Response Services to the Southern Areas for the Township of The Archipelago.

Respectfully Submitted,

I concur with this report
and recommendation,



Liam Thompson
Coordinator, Protective Services

John Mackinnon, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

1. Schedule A - South Archipelago Emergency Response Agreement 2026
2. Draft By-law: -2026 Execute Emergency Response Agreement with Seguin Township