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2008 OPERATING BUDGET

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends that:

- 1. the presentations by:
 - a) Lloyd Russell, Commissioner of Finance**
 - b) Inspector Heidi Schellhorn, York Regional Police, and**
 - c) Jim Davidson, Commissioner of Corporate Services,**
be received;**
- 2. the report (February 26, 2008) from the Commissioner of Finance, be received;**
- 3. the letter (February 29, 2008) from Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation, to Regional Chair Fisch regarding an additional one-time payment of \$7,852, 638 to the Region for transit purposes, be received;**
- 4. Council pass a by-law at its meeting of March 27, 2008 to meet the Ministry of Transportation's requirements for providing the additional one-time payment as set out in the letter of February 29, 2008 from the Minister of Transportation;**
- 5. the requests for funding for Buttonville Airport, additional call takers in Emergency Services (911) and additional staff in Corporate Services, as set out in section 4 of the report (February 26, 2008) from the Commissioner of Finance, be approved with the exception of the EEMS Systems Administrator in the Corporate Services Department;**
- 6. the Commissioner of Corporate Services report back to the Committee on:
 - a) the possibility of obtaining the services of co-op students from local universities and colleges for the energy conservation program; and**
 - b) cost savings at the end of 2008 resulting from the hiring of the Space & Furniture Move Specialist;****
- 7. the Committees be requested to consider potential additional budget priorities and enhancements at their meetings in April 2008;**
- 8. the 2008 Operating Budget be further considered at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of April 10, 2008 (or at a special meeting of the Committee if necessary) and approved at the Council meeting of April 24, 2008;**

9. **the Commissioner of Finance forward, if necessary, a comprehensive report to the Regional Council meeting of April 24, 2008 that summarizes the budget being recommended.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The additional information requested by Finance and Administration Committee at their meeting of February 4, 2008 be considered; and
2. The 2008 operating budget, as recommended by the Standing Committees, be recommended for approval by Regional Council; and
3. The Commissioner of Finance forward a comprehensive report to Regional Council's meeting of March 27, 2008 that summarizes the budget being recommended.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the progress to date on the 2008 Regional Operating Budget and the outstanding items remaining for Committee consideration.

3. BACKGROUND

Following the tabling of the 2008 Operating Budget at Regional Council on January 24, 2008, Standing Committees reviewed the departmental budget proposals and made recommendations to the Finance and Administration Committee. In addition, some items have been referred to the March 6, 2008 Finance and Administration committee meeting for consideration and decision.

Following the conclusion of the Finance and Administration Committee's review, the 2008 Operating Budget will be referred to Council for adoption on March 27, 2008.

3.1 Standing Committee Reviews

Outcome and Follow-up Action required following Standing Committee reviews

The following table reflects the results of the 2008 Operating Budget reviews by Standing Committees and the required follow-up action, if any.

Table 1
Summary of Standing Committee Reviews

Committee	Outcome	Follow-up Action
Transportation Services	Approved as submitted	None
Water & Wastewater	Approved as submitted	None
Solid Waste	Approved as submitted	None
Rapid Transit & Transit	Approved as submitted	None
Health & EMS	Approved as submitted	None
Community Services & Housing	Approved as submitted	None
Planning & Economic Development	Recommended for adoption	None
Corporate Services & Courts	Received Courts – Approved as submitted	Report back March 6 th for further discussion on FTE requests
Finance & Information Technology	Recommended with \$75,000 reduction	\$75k renovation to purchasing not recommended
York Regional Police	Approved as submitted	None
Conservation Authorities	Approved as submitted	None
CAO & Chair	Approved as submitted	None
Non-Program	Finance & Admin items received and approved 911 emergency services received Non-Program items approved as submitted	Report back March 6 th on Buttonville Airport agreement and 911 staffing

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Outstanding items requiring Committee's consideration

The following table summarizes the referrals and outstanding items remaining that require consideration and decision by the Committee.

911 Emergency Services	Report back on further details regarding the request for 4 additional FTEs
Non Program: Buttonville Airport	Report back on details of funding agreement
Corporate Services	Report back on details of 2008 FTE requests

911 Emergency Services

The Region currently funds a portion of the York Regional Police 911 communications as a separate program. The Regional program includes staffing for 16 communicators, 1 Supervisor. The current 2008 budget proposes an additional 4 call takers, bringing the total staffing to 21. The only other staffing increase occurred in 2003 when an additional 4 call takers were approved.

The Regional 911 program represents 24 % of the total 911 police communications staffing. York Regional Police currently staff 4 platoons with a total of 86 call center FTEs.

The agreement that was entered into with Bell Canada in 2002 stipulated that 99% of 911 emergency calls must be answered within 2 rings. Currently, 93.7% of emergency calls are answered within 2 rings. The increase of 4 call takers in 2008 is to respond to increased number of 911 calls and to ensure the minimum level of staffing.

Buttonville Airport grant funding

The Regional Municipality of York is committed to funding until December 31, 2010. The 2008 budgeted amount is \$220,000; for 2009 and 2010 this amount is increased by 2.8% or CPI whichever is higher. The funding obligation ceases if the airport is closed for a 6 month period, the lease is terminated or the Greater Toronto Airport Authority funding ceases.

Corporate Services new staff requests

Ten additional staff members have been requested to support Corporate Services in 2008. Four staff are included in other Regional departments and have subsequently been recommended during Standing Committee budget reviews. One of the new positions has

no net tax levy impact and another is recoverable from capital projects which has sufficient budget to cover the position. Details are as follows:

Property Services Project Coordinator	Funds provided in capital budget
Property Services Senior Building Operator	Staffing costs recovered from Transit and included in Transit budget recommended and approved by Transit Committee
HR Corporate Learning/Organizational Development Specialist	Funds transferred from training budget to provide in house training capabilities
Legal Assistant	Staffing costs recovered from Roads and included in the Roads budget recommended and approved by Transportation and Works Committee
Legal Associate Counsel	Staffing costs recovered from Roads and included in the Roads budget recommended and approved by Transportation and Works Committee
Clerks Records and Information Analyst	Staffing costs included in Health Services budget recommended and approved by Health and EMS Committee

The remaining 4 positions have net tax levy impact within the Corporate Services department and are as follows:

Engineer Technical Projects: To support the Region's Sustainable Building Policy (LEED), reviewing mechanical and electrical drawings and specifications. In addition, this position will also be responsible for project managing on-going energy retro-fit projects as well as managing the development and maintenance of the Branch Technical Standards and reviewing contract documents.

EEMS Systems Administrator: This position will eliminate the need for retraining successive co-op students and improve data integrity, quality and data reconciliation. This will be crucial to comply with the reporting requirements under Energy Conservation and Leadership Act.

Space & Furniture Move Specialist: To provide enhanced customer service to clients and will allow the space designers to provide a higher quality design service and enable a higher priority to be given to strategic initiatives. It will help meet increased client demand (approximately 1,000 requests annually) for space and furniture procurement.

Law Clerk (Litigation): To support Counsel Litigation by taking a significant role in day to day management of cases thereby allowing in-house counsel to devote increased resources to resolving substantive issues and focusing on corporate wide liability and risk

reduction. Small claims cases can also be assigned to a Litigation Clerk allowing in-house counsel to focus on Superior Court cases.

Transit Funding announced by Province in December 2007

On December 13, 2007, the Minister of Finance tabled the 2007 Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review. The tabling also introduced a number of program funding announcements including a program related to investing \$500 million in transit infrastructure. These funds were identified to be allocated for transit projects and to assist municipal transit systems across Ontario in dealing with immediate demands. The program was designed to help increase ridership, address state-of-good-repair needs, manage congestion and support the efficient movement of people and goods.

Details of the program have not yet been announced, however, it is believed that the \$200 million that was added to the Move Ontario Trust for funding of the Spadina subway extension was from this overall funding leaving a balance of \$300 million.

Since details are unknown it is not possible to include this funding in the budget, however since it is identified for infrastructure it could most likely impact the capital budget and capital financing of our 2008 or 2009 program.

Further details on this funding will be provided when they are known.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Committee decisions will determine the impact on the 2008 Operating budget.

The results of the deliberations by the Finance and Administration Committee on the referrals and outstanding items referenced in this report will determine the impact on the total 2008 Operating Budget. The tax levy required to support this budget will then be determined and will form part of a comprehensive report to be submitted to Regional Council for consideration and adoption on March 27, 2008. The budget as recommended through committees would result in a net tax levy increase of 4.0%.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The impact on local municipalities will be reflected in the tax levy apportioned to each member municipality, following adoption by Regional Council.

7. CONCLUSION

The information outlined in this report is provided to assist Committee members in addressing the remaining outstanding items and referrals which require consideration and decision. Upon completion of the Committee's deliberations, a comprehensive report will be prepared for Regional Council's consideration for adoption March 27, 2008.

A more detailed presentation will be made to the March 6, 2008 Finance and Administration Committee to assist in deliberations and development of recommendations for Regional Council.

For more information on this report, please contact Kelly Fenchak, Manager of Business Planning & Performance Measurement at Ext. 1680.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.