



## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

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FROM: Jennifer Ford, Senior Financial Analyst

DATE: May 15, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019/20 Ambulance Funding

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the report titled “2019/20 Ambulance Funding” from the Senior Financial Analyst dated May 15, 2019 be received and filed.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

On April 11, 2019 the Government tabled its 2019 budget whereby it outlined its plans to make changes to many existing services including the modernization of the Ontario health care system. Work is already underway in many sectors, and, as a Service Delivery Agent of Ambulance Services, the County of Elgin is also expected to be accountable to find some efficiencies in economy of scale. This report serves to update Council on the implications to funding for 2019/20 as it relates to Ambulance Services.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Attached is a letter received on May 7, 2019 from Alison Blair the Executive Director, Emergency Health Services Office. The letter confirms the government’s commitment to ensure government programs are modernized and sustainable. The letter further asks transfer-payment partners such as the County of Elgin to think differently about how services are delivered and to maximize opportunities for efficiency.

To provide incentive for transfer-partners to begin this process, our 2019/20 funding will remain the same the funding received in 2018/19 with emphasis on ensuring the on-going provision of frontline services is not affected. The transfer-payment agreement with the Ministry relating to Ambulance Services is structured such that the Province will pay up to 50% of the cost of Ambulance Services based on the prior year budget but no more. Any cost overruns to the 50% provincial share in any given year are then paid at 100% by the transfer-payment partner.

The fully funded provincial share for the 2019/20 budget is calculated to be \$5,099,163. Based on the letter attached, the County will receive \$5,027,890 in 2019/20 resulting in a budget shortfall of \$71,273. Ambulance service costs for Elgin County are shared with the City of St. Thomas. The City’s share of this increased cost is calculated to be \$31,146 (43.7%) and the County share is calculated to be \$40,127(56.3%).

**CONCLUSION:**

At this time, it is not evident what further impact there will be on the 2019/20 budget as a result of the Health care modernization plan. We will keep Council informed as developments occur.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Jennifer Ford  
Senior Financial Analyst

Julie Gonyou  
Chief Administrative Officer