
REPORT TO: Community and Infrastructure Services Committee

DATE OF MEETING: December 6, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Fire Chief Bob Gilmore, ext. 5501
Jennifer Trommelen-Jones, Assistant City Solicitor, ext. 7264

PREPARED BY: Fire Chief Bob Gilmore, ext. 5501
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WARD(S) INVOLVED: All Wards

DATE OF REPORT: November 24, 2021

REPORT NO.: CSD-2021-16

SUBJECT: Mappedin and Kitchener Fire Department Agreement – Digitization of City Mapping

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Fire Chief be authorized to execute the Agreement with Mappedin Inc. for the sharing of mapping data and feedback in exchange for enhanced mapping through technology for emergency response purposes, as outlined in the Community Services Department report CSD-2021-16, and any amendments and renewals, said documentation to be to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Kitchener Fire Department has pre-plans for City buildings to assist with emergency response.
- Pre-plans provide internal building information and locations of building services and fire and life safety equipment including but not limited to emergency exits, electrical rooms, fire pumps, alarm panels and warning devices.
- Local tech company Mappedin provides an indoor, interactive mapping platform (ex. Mall and campus maps) and is expanding this platform to emergency services
- Mappedin has offered to digitize approximately 200 City pre-plans and provide free use of Mappedin's software for 2 years, at no cost, in exchange for the City providing feedback on the development of the new software
- If this arrangement is successful, there is the potential for the City to obtain a license for the commercial software, and otherwise, the City will retain ownership of all maps received, both original and digital, as updated
- Mappedin will provide current "real time" information of the buildings current use and layout for firefighters and provide a reliable orientation of where they are situated in the building at all times.

BACKGROUND:

The Kitchener Fire Department (KFD) delivers fire and emergency protection services through three strategic lines of defence: public fire safety and education; fire safety standards and enforcement; and emergency response. This report, and staff's recommendations contained within it, are focused on the third line of defence, emergency response, which is provided primarily by the Fire Department's Suppression Division.

To provide efficiencies, enhance building familiarity and add to firefighter safety the KFD conducts pre-plans of all multi dwelling buildings, industrial and commercial premises. Pre-plans provide internal building information and locations of building services and fire and life safety equipment including but not limited to emergency exits, electrical rooms, fire pumps, alarm panels and warning devices. Historically, the information collected was entered by staff into a CAD which produced printed drawings that responding crews could access while on scene. Accuracy of the drawings was limited due to the information being static. As well, when buildings changed ownership or permitted use, the department often wouldn't be notified which created further inaccuracies.

REPORT:

Mappedin Inc. (Mappedin) is a local business offering a leading mapping platform for indoor spatial data management, digitizing venues, and building best-in-class indoor mapping experiences. They have worked with Cadillac Fairway malls, Casinorama Resort, and Tanger Outlets, to name a few.

While their current industries include malls, retail, stadiums, offices, theme parks, campuses, and city districts, Mappedin is looking to expand into emergency services to enhance the tools available to first responders.

To that end, Mappedin and City staff have worked together to prepare an agreement whereby the City will have primary access to this new Mappedin software, in development, for at least 2 years, at no cost. Mappedin will also digitize approximately 200 City pre-plan maps, which will be available for continuing and interactive updates. The City will also have the option of entering into a software agreement in the future for the commercial version, if and when it becomes available. In exchange, the City will provide feedback on the software to assist Mappedin with its development. All maps will continue to be owned by the City, and the City will be entitled to retain the digitized maps, with all updates, on expiration of the Agreement.

This represents a unique and valuable opportunity for the City to gain access to innovative and transformative tools for our Fire Department, at no cost, while at the same time helping a local company develop their product.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report supports the delivery of core services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financial implications of staff's recommendation are limited to the time necessary for staff to provide feedback to Mappedin, as part of their regular job duties. Staff expects that this obligation will not interfere with regular duties.

Capital Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Capital Budget.

Operating Budget – The recommendation has no impact on the Operating Budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

INFORM – This report has been posted to the City's website with the agenda in advance of the council committee meeting.

PREVIOUS REPORTS/AUTHORITIES:

There are no previous reports/authorities related to this matter.

APPROVED BY: MICHAEL MAY, DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER