**TO:** Chair and Members  
Emergency and Community Services Committee

**COMMITTEE DATE:** February 10, 2014

**SUBJECT/REPORT NO:** Land Ambulance Service Grant (LASG) Agreement Approval (CES14010) (City Wide)

**WARD(S) AFFECTED:** City Wide

**PREPARED BY:** Michael Sanderson 905-546-2424 Ext. 7741

**SUBMITTED BY:** Vicki Woodcox  
Acting General Manager  
Community and Emergency Services Department

**SIGNATURE:**

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the General Manager of Community and Emergency Services be authorized and directed to enter into and execute current and future agreements with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), to receive grants for Land Ambulance Services, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2014 the MOHLTC is implementing annual written agreements for receipt of Land Ambulance Service Grant (LASG) funding. This report seeks approval for the General Manager to annually enter into the Land Ambulance Service Grant Agreements.

**Alternatives for Consideration –Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (for recommendation(s) only)**

Financial:
The MOHLTC has approved the 2013 Shareable Land Ambulance Operating Costs in the amount of $34,800,442. The approved 2013 Land Ambulance Services Grant at 50:50 will be $17,400,221 for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Staffing:
There are no staffing implications associated with Report CES14010.

Legal:
Legal Services have reviewed the requested agreement and advise that it meets the normal business requirements of the City.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The MOHLTC has determined that the Province of Ontario Transfer Payment Accountability Directive requires a signed agreement for the Land Ambulance Services Grant. This includes all grant payments such as the normal 50:50 funding grants and any 100% funding grants such as the one currently in place for Offload Nurse staffing.

Accordingly, the MOHLTC initiated a process of consultation with representatives from the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), the City of Toronto, the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA), the District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs), and the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC). We are advised that stakeholder representatives and the MOHLTC met on several occasions, undertaking a clause-by-clause review of the Agreement and arriving at mutually agreeable content intending to balance the needs of the Municipalities in the delivery of land ambulance services with the provincial requirements.

From this consultation, a consensus was received on a draft Land Ambulance Services Grant (LASG) Transfer Payment Framework Agreement. All ambulance service operators, including the City of Hamilton were then provided a copy of the Draft Agreement in December 2013 for comment and feedback.

Following this feedback period, the MOHLTC issued final agreements to each ambulance service operator on January 20, 2014, asking for agreement to be signed back to them by January 31, 2014.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The requested agreement is primarily an exercise on the part of the MOHLTC to ensure that public funding is accounted for and that value is being provided for the funding.

As outlined in the preamble to the agreement The Ambulance Act provides that every Upper Tier Municipality or Designated Delivery Agent (UTM/DDA) shall be responsible for ensuring the proper provision of Land Ambulance Services.

The Act also provides that every UTM/DDA shall be responsible for all costs associated with Land Ambulance Services and that the Minister may make grants pursuant to section 4(3) of the Act for the purpose of providing or ensuring the provision of Land Ambulance Services.

The Act further provides that the Minister has the duty and the power to establish, maintain and operate Communication Services, alone or in cooperation with others, and to fund such services. The Minister also has the duty and the power to ensure the existence of a balanced and integrated system of Ambulance Services and Communication Services used in dispatching Ambulances.
RELEVANT CONSULTATION

City of Hamilton Legal Services have reviewed the requested agreement and advise that it meets the normal business requirements of the City.

Corporate Services, Finance, Administration & Revenue Generation staff have reviewed the requested agreement and confirm that the language does not shift or change any existing cost understandings.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONAL FOR RECOMMENDATION

The MOHLTC has advised that they require completion of the LASG Agreement to enable continuance of funding in the agreed upon manner for Land Ambulance Service and for any other related programs such as the Offload Nurse Funding agreement.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 – 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

*WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.*

Strategic Objective

2.1 Implement processes to improve services, leverage technology and validate cost effectiveness and efficiencies across the Corporation.

Strategic Priority #3

Leadership & Governance

*WE work together to ensure we are a government that is respectful towards each other and that the community has confidence and trust in.*

Strategic Objective

3.1 Engage in a range of inter-governmental relations (IGR) work that will advance partnerships and projects that benefit the City of Hamilton.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None