

SERVICE CONNECTION FAILURE ASSISTANCE FUND

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Overview

The Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund (SCFA) was set up as a type of insurance coverage for residents who have a problem with their water and sewer service.

Water and sewer service connection failures are generally due to freezing water lines. The cost of carrying out emergency repairs, especially in winter weather conditions, can exceed \$10,000. The SCFA fund also applies to sewer service connection failures, and helps cover the costs associated with fixing sewer connections.

Council established the SCFA program to provide municipal service customers with affordable insurance to cover repair costs.

The majority of customers participate in the program which, in the event of a failure, covers repair costs above \$1,000 and up to a maximum of \$25,000. The property owner pays the first \$1,000 (the deductible) and all costs exceeding \$25,000. The premium, currently set at \$10.00 per equivalent residential unit per month, is collected through a levy on the City water bill.

The program applies to failure of water or sewer services that occur between the building foundation and the City main. To qualify for the program a customer must have:

- a properly installed, operated and maintained freeze protection system
- water and sewer service connections in accordance with the applicable by-laws and codes

The costs that are covered under the program are those associated with the excavation, water and sewer repair or replacement, backfilling, placement of topsoil on the customer's property, pavement and sidewalk repair on City roadways.

Standard Water and Sewer Service Connection

In 1984 the City adopted the two-line circulation system as its standard water service connection, which proved to be the most cost-effective freeze protection system available. The system consists of two insulated copper lines connected by a small pump located in a heated area inside the premises, which continuously circulates water back to the City main to prevent freezing. Some downtown blocks also utilize a two-line water system, but with an orifice system rather than a circulating pump. The orifice system works on the pressure differential of supply and return lines.

Prior to 1984 a variety of freeze protection systems were being installed. These were typically single lines with bleeders, heat tape, or the Aquaflow system to provide freeze protection.

The problems with the freeze protection systems associated with single line services are:

- Bleeders waste a huge volume of treated water and add to the volume of sewage that must be pumped to the sewage lagoon. This wasted water can affect the volumes stipulated under the City's mandated water licence.
- Heat tape has a relatively short lifespan and leads to frequent freeze-up problems.
- The Aquaflow system is noisy and, as the system pumps water into the City's potable water system, it is not tamper-proof.

As the City continues to reconstruct streets and services in older sections, service connections are upgraded to the current standard. Water and sewer service connections that are repaired under the SCFA are upgraded to the current standard, as well.

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The Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund provides for the repair and maintenance of the water supply and sewage lines from the City mains to the customer's building and provides assistance to customers.

Service Connection Failure Assistance Fund				2016	2017	2018	
	2014	2015	2015	Budget	Budget	Budget	Note
	Actual	Budget	Forecast	Approved	Budget	Budget	
	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	(\$000's)	
Revenue							
Insurance Premium	1,157	1,156	1,156	1,169	1,169	1,169	(1)
Insurance Deductible	57	60	60	36	36	36	
	1,214	1,216	1,216	1,205	1,205	1,205	
Expenditures							
Contracted Services	873	870	870	652	671	687	
Materials	155	56	56	122	125	127	
Labour/ Equipment	343	290	290	302	380	391	(2)
	1,370	1,216	1,216	1,076	1,176	1,205	
Net Revenue (Expenditures)	(157)	-	-	129	28	-	
Interfund Transfers							
(To) From Capital Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Change in Fund Balance	(157)	-	-	129	28	-	
Opening Balance	-	-	(157)	(157)	(28)	0	
Closing Balance	(157)	-	(157)	(28)	0	0	

Notes:

- (1) See the following schedule of the Service Connection Failure Assistance Program premiums and deductibles.
 (2) Labour and equipment are the internal charges from the Water and Sewer Fund.

Budgeted revenue is based on the following:					
					2016
					Budgeted
			Rate	Number/ Volume	\$
Premiums Per Equivalent Residential Unit			\$10.00	9,738	1,168,600
Deductible-(Average # of Monthly Charges)			\$1,000.00	3.00	36,000
Total Revenue					1,204,600



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Service Connection Failure Assistance Performance Measures	Projected 2014	Actual 2014	Projected 2015	Forecasted 2016	Forecasted 2017	Forecasted 2018	Notes
Workload Indicators							
No. of services repaired/replaced under SCFA:							
Public Works (in-house)	85	99	65	50	50	50	
Contracted Out	35	39	15	10	10	10	
Total	120	138	80	60	60	60	
Effectiveness Measures							
Average cost to repair/replace service with dual circulating water service under SCFA							
	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$13,500	\$15,800	\$16,200	\$16,600	(1), (2) & (3)
Notes:							
(1) Pavement and sidewalk repairs are now included in the cost of performing a SCFA repair.							
(2) Average cost of service replacement/repair subject to inflation of material cost.							
(3) Average repair cost are approximately 20% of service replacement cost which in turn results in lower overall average cost based on ratio.							

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