

a full refresh is planned to be completed in 2024 to upgrade and to keep the existing maintenance agreement with our support vendor.

The current system was designed to enable Councillors and the public to participate in meetings exclusively in-person. To enable a Council Chamber *Hybrid* solution, some changes in technology are required.

During the March 7, 2023 Regional Council meeting, staff were directed to assess technology options to enable hybrid participation by Council members, and ensure there is no degradation in the current functionalities and capabilities for those participating in meetings from within the Chamber or remotely.

DISCUSSION

On February 6, 2024, Regional Council voted in favour of migrating the current system to a hybrid system for a cost of \$654,540. To proceed with hybrid participation for members of Regional Council in Council Chambers an additional capital investment is required.

To perform the planned refresh in current Council Chambers technology, \$500,000 capital budget has been approved. However, an additional \$155,000 capital budget is required to move to a hybrid design. On February 6, 2024, Regional Council directed staff to obtain this additional funding from an alternate source. The alternate source chosen is from the Public Wi-Fi expansion capital account CI000021. No additional locations to expand Public Wi-Fi have been identified and usage from existing installations has been lower than originally anticipated negating any need for additions or enhancements to the existing service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Estimated total project capital cost for Council Chamber Hybrid solution, which includes a replacement of the existing Audio/Visual hardware and implementation of new software with Hybrid capabilities is \$654,540.

There is \$500,000 in the Capital Budget under approved Capital Project CI240006, with the remaining \$155,000 funding to be reallocated from capital project CI000021 – Public Wi-Fi Expansion.

Capital Budget Summary:

Project Account No. CI240006

Approved 2024/25 Budget	\$ 500,000
Plus: transfer from CI000021	<u>\$ 154,540</u>
Balance	\$ 654,540

Project Account No. CI000021

Cumulative Uncommitted Budget	\$ 222,060
Less: transfer to CI240006	<u>(\$ 154,540)</u>
Balance	\$ 67,520

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications associated with the recommendations in this Report have been identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Audit and Finance Standing Committee could choose not to allow the transfer of capital, resulting in insufficient funding to enable hybrid functionality within Council Chambers.

ATTACHMENTS

None