



Subject: 2025 Fire Services Part-time Increase Request Report

Report Number: FRS 25-05

Department: Fire and Emergency Services

Submitted by: Shane Caskanette, Fire Chief

Meeting Type: Council Budget Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, November 18, 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report titled “2025 Fire Services Part-Time Hours Increase Request Report” be received as information; and

THAT the request to increase Fire Services part-time suppression hours in the 2025 operating budget in the amount of \$44,800 as a fiscally responsible way to keep pace with community growth, maintain Council-approved fire service levels, and maintain legislative compliance, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Fire Chief is bringing this report forward for Council consideration during 2025 budget deliberations and seeking Council’s approval to increase part-time suppression hours by 1180 hours at a cost of \$44,800 in the 2025 operating budget as a fiscally responsible strategy to keep pace with community growth, meet legislative compliance, enhance fire safety in our community and maintain Council approved service levels.

DISCUSSION

On April 6, 2023 Council adopted Emergency Services Growth as a new strategic priority for the Town of Tillsonburg. As a Council priority, staff must consider growth of emergency services in line with growth of the Municipality. Tillsonburg Fire Rescue Services must grow in a fiscally responsible manner to keep pace with service demands and growth in our municipality.

The Community Risk Assessment and Master Fire Services Plan adopted by Council in November of 2023 identified growth related capacity challenges maintaining Council approved service levels and legislative compliance in the area of professional standards and qualifications, fire prevention inspections, public education, preplanning, administration, and emergency response capabilities during peak day time hours Monday to Friday.

Additional part-time hours are required to increase staffing resource capacity in these areas to keep pace with growth and service demands in these functional areas.

To meet increasing service demand challenges in a fiscally responsible manner the Fire Chief is recommending Council approve an increase in part-time suppression hours in the amount of \$44,800 annually. This strategy uses our current pool of trained volunteer firefighters familiar with our community, equipment and procedures to work daytime shifts during peak hours to increase fire services capacity in the areas of training, inspections, investigations, public education, administration and initial emergency response.

The use of existing trained volunteer firefighters to increase fire service resource capacity in training, prevention, education, administration, and initial emergency response benefits both the Town and our volunteer firefighters and is a fiscally responsible way to strategically increase fire service capacity over time avoiding large one time impacts to the operating budget.

CONSULTATION

This report was reviewed by Finance, CAO, and Clerks.

FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

Over the past three year Fire Services has increased department revenues through increases in fire communications partnerships, false alarms, motor vehicle collisions, inspections and burn complaints.

The increase in fire communications revenue funded the reallocation of the Asst. Chief of Communications wages and benefits from the General Fire Full Time account to the Fire Communications Full Time account. Increases in user fees also helps offset the costs of increased part time suppression hours.

1180 Hours at \$38.00 = \$44,800

CORPORATE GOALS

- Lifestyle and amenities
- Customer service, communication and engagement
- Business attraction, retention and expansion
- Community growth
- Connectivity and transportation
- Not Applicable

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Does this report relate to a specific strategic direction or project identified in the Community Strategic Plan? Please indicate section number and/or any priority projects identified in the plan.

Goal – The Town of Tillsonburg will accommodate and support sustainable growth.

Strategic Direction – Emergency Services Growth

Priority Project – Staff to consider growth of emergency services in line with growth of the Municipality.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix – N/A