



Report

Subject: Fire Service Update

Department: Community Services

Division: Orangeville Fire

Report #: CMS-2023-012

Meeting Date: 2023-05-15

Recommendations

That report CMS-2023-012, Fire Service Update, be received.

Background and Analysis

Prior to 2003, Orangeville and surrounding areas protected by Orangeville Fire Department were serviced by only volunteer firefighters.

In 2003, The Town of Orangeville moved to a composite Fire Department hiring 9 Firefighters to protect and service the residents and surrounding areas, from 0600 – 1800 hours, 7 days weeks, year-round. Responses after 1800 hours were tasked to volunteer firefighters who were summoned to respond. Between 2003 and 2017 an additional 3 firefighters were hired bringing the total full-time complement to 12.

In 2018, Council approved 24-hour fire protection coverage and subsequently the Town of Orangeville hired 8 additional Firefighters bringing its full-time firefighting complement to up to 20 career firefighters working on 4 Platoons, who service the Town of Orangeville and surrounding area 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

Under Council direction in becoming a full service, all hazard firefighting force, the stakeholders have seen a multitude of improvements on many levels.

Orangeville Fire Services' response times have reduced for in-town calls from an average of 13 minutes in 2018, and in 2019 (first full year of 24-hour coverage), this average was reduced to 4 minutes. Currently, Orangeville Fire is proud to have an exceptional response time of approximately 3 minutes and 7 seconds in 2022, which is below the standard response time recognized by the National Fire Protection Association.

‘A fire doubles in size every 30 seconds, causing everything in the room to burn in as little as 3 minutes.’, (phoenix.gov/fire/safety, 2023)

Prior to 2018, residents received two levels of response, also called tiers of service from Orangeville Fire. Career Firefighters responded to non-emergency and emergency calls, during working hours of 0600 – 1800 hours. Calls for service during the 1800-0600 hours were on a secondary tier schedule and were responded to by volunteer firefighters. Following the hiring of the 24-hour coverage, residents now receive full service no matter the time of day.

Additionally, the Training Division has increased training hours by approximately 270%. In 2017, 256 training sessions were conducted which yielded 4,762 training hours. Five years later, in 2022, there were 1,597 training sessions which accumulated 12,826 training hours. The availability of Career Firefighters who are involved in training Volunteer Firefighters has greatly improved the training program, and in saying that, the service to the community and stakeholders through community events and education has seen improvements.

In 2019, Fire Underwriters Survey assessed Orangeville’s fire defenses for the primary purpose of fire insurance grading and classification. The Fire Service Underwriters Survey provides data on public fire protection for fire insurance statistical work and underwriting purposes of subscribing insurance companies. Subscribers of Fire Underwriters Survey represent approximately 85 percent of the private sector property and casualty insurers in Canada. Orangeville Fire is proud to report that since the last assessment, our scores have improved in both the Homeowners and Commercial Lines. This marked improvement is largely in part to the response times of the 24/7 full time fire service and the firefighters who respond quickly and efficiently within the Town of Orangeville and the municipal partners we service.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Future-Readiness

Objective: Due diligence – confirm applicable governance and policy regimes.

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Corporate and Fiscal

Strategy: Create and integrate sustainable principles into Town Policies, Processes and Practices.

Notice Provisions

None.

Financial Impact

None.

Respectfully submitted

Reviewed by

Heather Savage
General Manager, Community Services

Mike Richardson
Acting Fire Chief, Community Services

Prepared by

Ashleigh Milliner-Cowan
Fire Services Administrative Assistant, Community Services,

Attachment(s): None.