



## **CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES**

# **Central York Fire Services Fire Master Plan Project Update Fire Services Report**

Report Number: JCC-2022-06  
To: Joint Council Committee  
Author: Central York Fire Services – J. Inglis, Deputy Fire Chief  
Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

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### **Recommendations**

1. That Fire Services Report JCC-2022-06 Central York Fire Services Fire Master Plan Project Update dated September 6, 2022 be received for information purposes.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Council Committee (JCC) of the progress and preliminary findings of the CYFS Fire Master Plan.

### **Background**

Since the last Fire Department Master Plan update in 2014, there have been numerous changes, not just within the Town of Aurora, Town of Newmarket, and Central York Fire Services, but within the Fire Service across the province. These changes at the Municipal and Provincial levels have led to a number of significant changes impacting the delivery of fire protection services. Examples of these include the introduction of Ontario Regulation 378/18 – Community Risk Assessments on July 1, 2019; the adoption of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training standards for all firefighters in Ontario. Ontario Regulation 343/22 – Firefighter Certification was also recently adopted on April 14, 2022; the expansion of the presumptive legislation for prescribed cancers on July 1, 2018, and the introduction of presumptive legislation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder on April 4, 2016.

The attached Joint Council Committee Project Update memo provides an overview of the progress made towards the updated Fire Master Plan, drawing on information from Fire Master Plan Project Update

the Stakeholder Consultations, Community Risk Assessments, Levels of Service, Historical Call Data, and recommendations for maintaining levels of service as approved in the Consolidation and Regulating Bylaws.

## **Financial Impact**

Moving forward, the main recommendation contained within the memo of a transition from a hiring ratio of 1.25 firefighters per position, per platoon to a ratio of 1.33 firefighters per position, per platoon, has been submitted for consideration in the 2023 Operational Decision Packages for the 2023 and 2024 Budget Cycles to hire an additional 4 firefighters in each 2023 and 2024 to increase the staffing ratio from 1.25 firefighters per position to 1.33 firefighters per position to cover the increased absenteeism due to WSIB, Long Term Disability, and increases in Vacation and Lieu Day/Statutory Holiday allotments. This will equate to an approximate operational budget increase of \$400,000 in each of 2023 and 2024.

## **Conclusion**

Through this preliminary analysis of the CYFS existing fire suppression deployment capabilities, the impact of reducing the minimum number of firefighters on duty at any given time in order to accommodate extended WSIB and other absences has been identified. The opening of the new Station 4-5 and the additional firefighters that have been hired for this station sustain the historical 1.25 ratio of firefighters per position, this means that even with the opening of Station 4-5, there will continue to be reductions in the minimum number of firefighters, and the number of front-line apparatus available to respond due to increased absenteeism related to WSIB, Long Term Disability, Sick Days, and increases to Vacation and Lieu Day/Statutory Holiday allotments. The preliminary findings and corresponding recommendations are for Central York Fire Services to investigate adjusting the historical hiring practice of 1.25 firefighters per position, per platoon to a new ratio of 1.33 firefighters per position, per platoon.

## **Consultation**

This report has been prepared by Central York Fire staff based on the Community Risk Assessments, Stakeholder Engagement, and Information collected by Dillon Consulting Limited.

Dillon has consulted with multiple agencies and departments in the York Region and Town of Newmarket and Town of Aurora during the process. Departments and Agencies consulted include, but are not limited to – Planning, Transportation, GIS, Water/Wastewater, and Central York Fire Services.

## **Impact On The Master Fire Plan**

This report is consistent with the methodology set out in the Joint Services Agreement. The preliminary findings of the Fire Master Plan will be expanded during the final stages of the Fire Master Plan project.

## **Attachments**

**Attachment 1** - Joint Council Committee Project Update Memo

## **Contact**

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