



CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES

2016-11-14

Fire Services Report 2016-05

To: Joint Council Committee

Origin: Central York Fire Services – Training

Subject: **Medical Oversight of CYFS Medical Program**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Joint Council Committee (JCC) approve securing medical oversight from a physician for the CYFS medical response program,

AND THAT JCC authorize an increase in level of service that would allow CYFS to follow a symptom relief drugs protocol.

BACKGROUND

CYFS currently works without medical oversight from a doctor. For a number of years, the Department had worked under a doctor's license through Lakeridge Hospital. A dramatic fee increase along with a significant reduction in service caused CYFS and many other departments to seek a different service provider. In 2013 CYFS together with several other fire services joined the Red Cross medical program to ensure all front line staff were compliant with current regulations.

The Red Cross program, although less costly, does put the corporation at risk of criticism in the event of emergency medical treatment. In order to provide a more appropriate level of training and oversight, CYFS has researched available options. The proposed medical oversight through a physician would provide education, evaluation and monitoring services. It would also allow CYFS to carry and administer industry standard symptom relief drugs, starting with Epinephrine for anaphylactic patients. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and has the potential to be life threatening, either through swelling that shuts off the patient's airway or through a significant drop in blood pressure. Food allergies are the most common cause of anaphylaxis. However insect venom, medications, exercise, latex can trigger an anaphylactic reaction. This change in the level of service has the potential to save a resident's life when they are suffering from a severe allergic reaction.

Early administration of intramuscular Epinephrine is the most effective treatment for this allergic reaction.

BUDGET IMPACT

The annual fee for medical oversight is approximately \$15,000. This fee also includes training and evaluating our shift trainers, writing and updating our medical protocols, evaluating every firefighter and monitoring and reviewing all delegated acts performed by CYFS.

Carrying adequate dosage of Epinephrine on 6 vehicles is estimated to be \$2,200 annually.

With related supplies, the total annual cost for this service is estimated to be \$18,000 and will be incorporated into the 2017 approved budget.

IMPACT ON THE MASTER FIRE PLAN

Increasing the level of medical service response will be reflected in future versions of the Master Fire Plan.



FIRE Chief
Central York Fire Service