



Fire Services Staff Report

Report Title:	By-Law to Establish, Maintain and Regulate a Fire Department for the Township of Woolwich and to Repeal By-Law 24-2016.
Report Number:	A11-2023
Author:	Dennis Aldous
Meeting Type:	Committee of the Whole Meeting
Meeting Date:	November 14, 2023
File:	N/A
Consent Item:	No
Final Version:	Yes
Reviewed By:	David Brenneman
Final Review:	Senior Management Team

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering Report A11-2023 respecting a By-law to regulate the operation of the Fire Department, authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the By-law.

Background:

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act requires every municipality to establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention. The municipality must also provide other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances for the community. This includes establishing a Municipal Fire Department and regulating the services that are provide to the community.

The last Regulating By-law was approved by Council in 2016 and a lot has changed since that time, including the introduction of mandatory firefighter certification. As part of the certification process the Ontario Fire Marshal has recommended reviewing and renewing all regulating bylaws to make sure they fit with the level of service being provided by each Municipality.

We took this opportunity to strengthen and better define the regulating by-law for Woolwich.

Comments:

With the Ontario government making changes to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act to include mandatory certification for firefighters and with their adoption of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, staff have adapted the regulating by-law for the Fire Department to incorporate these changes. By making these changes it will require more updates to the Schedule "B" of this bylaw, as we enhance the Fire Departments level of service to meet the growing needs of the Township.

This new by-law includes new references to the Municipal Act, Employment Standards Act, Fire Protection and Prevention Act, National Fire Protection Association and outlines the responsibility of the Fire Chief in greater detail. The included schedules offer a better explanation into the Fire Departments level of service, current staffing structure and policies.

Interdepartmental Impacts:

None

Financial Impacts:

There are no immediate financial impacts to the Fire Department budget but any enhancements to their level of service will be captured in the operating budget of that year.

Strategic Plan Impacts:**Healthy Communities**

Through the updating of the regulating bylaw this helps to ensure that the Woolwich Fire Department can continue to maintain appropriate service levels and keep our communities safe and healthy.

Best Managed and Governed Municipality

Provide exceptional customer service and commit to maintain high standards for municipal service delivery. This bylaw allows the fire department the ability to maintain the commitment to delivering exceptional customer service.

Conclusion:

With Council approving and authorizing the signing of this new regulating bylaw will allow a continuation of the full-service fire protection that the Woolwich Fire Department offers to the community.

Attachments:

Bylaw and Schedules