



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: September 3, 2019

SUBJECT: Master Fire Plan, Task Force Terms of Reference
(Second Crew at Station 99 (Cornell))

PREPARED BY: Dave Decker, Fire Chief (ext. 5975)

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report entitled “Master Fire Plan, Task Force Terms of Reference Second Crew at Station 99 (Cornell)” be received;
- 2) THAT Council approve the attached Terms of Reference for the creation of a Council Task Force to review the recommendations from the Fire Chief for the second crew at Station 99 (Cornell) to improve fire response times for that area; and
- 3) THAT Council appoint four members of Council to the Committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide, as directed by General Committee on June 12th 2018, Terms of Reference for the formation and appointment of Members of Council to a Council Task Force to review the report and recommendations from the Fire Chief f

BACKGROUND:

Markham Fire and Emergency Services Master Fire Plan (MFP) was completed and adopted in principle by Council in March 2012. In June of 2012, the Master Fire Plan - Implementation Plan was approved subject to annual business planning, operating, and capital budget processes.

Consistent with municipal fire services, staff used two reliable sources of benchmarked data to guide decision-making related to the Council-approved service levels for the City of Markham’s fire protection services.

They include:

1. **Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS)** provides data on public fire protection for fire insurance statistical work and underwriting. Staff engaged FUS in 2013, resulting in three key areas of improvement, namely Pre-Fire Planning, Total Fire Force Available, and Ladder (Aerial) Truck Service. This is consistent with the MFP in supporting a consistent level of service across the municipality.

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2. **The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)** standards for fire response criteria are used in the MFP to address minimum staffing, travel time to a reported fire and to safely and effectively perform the tasks necessary to conduct initial fire attack, and activities to support search and rescue.

In 2017, the Fire Chief undertook a geospatial review of fire response across the City and measured the results against Council-approved levels of service established in the Master Fire Plan and its Implementation Plan. Deployment mapping was completed through GIS and reviewed.

The Fire Chief delivered a presentation with recommendations during the April 9, 2018 General Committee meeting reporting on the MFP and activities to address service response deficiencies. The presentation demonstrated how fire response occurs and the critical need for the first truck to arrive at the scene within 4 minutes (first truck) and the remaining 3 trucks within 8 minutes. The Fire Chief was directed to prepare a staff report on the subject which was presented to General Committee on June 12th whereby staff was directed to report back with a terms of reference for a Council Task Force related to the second crew at Cornell. At Council the report was deferred to a meeting in 2019 and staff were asked staff to develop a process for review. This report is a follow up to the directions of Council related to the Fire Chief's recommendations related to the Second Crew for Cornell to address the service deficiencies in that area.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

As directed by Council, the attached Terms of Reference for a Council Task Force for the purpose of evaluating the Fire Chief's recommendations related to addressing needs to improve fire response within the service area of Station 99 (Cornell).

The mandate of the Task Force would include:

1. To ensure clarity and understanding the current fire response conditions and what would be required to meet established standards as detailed in the Markham Master Fire Plan to provide public safety and protection of property. (Including overview of best practices in provision of life safety responses.)
2. To evaluate/discuss alternate options to improve fire response times in Station 99 area and other deficient areas.
3. To determine if there is any potential for neighboring fire departments to address response in deficient areas across the City.
4. To review options, impacts and costs to address deficiencies City wide.
5. That the Task Force make recommendations to General Committee on the outcomes of the meetings

The review will include resource planning data/GIS mapping used by staff to develop recommendations. Staff to provide background information used to make decisions.

Priority areas of focus for the review:

- **Public Safety:** Ensure consistent and equal response to fire and other emergencies across all neighborhoods.
- **Growth Management:** Ensure that levels of service are maintained as a result of increased population from new development within the context of a variety of build forms - vertical communities to land based developments.
- **Financial Management:** Continue to utilize good financial practices such as ramp up reserves prior to the need occurring.
- **Continuous Improvement** – ensuring operational plans reflect changes in built form, experience from past fire occurrences (Markham and other locations), and opportunities to utilize new types of equipment and technology that benefit public safety.

Staff are recommending four members of Council be appointed to the Task Force that would be formed to focus on the most critical needs within the Fire Response that being the need to add a second crew to Cornell.

That on formation of the Committee that meetings be scheduled and the review of this important public safety matter be completed by the end of the year- end with the Task Force reporting findings to General Committee in the December.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no funding implications as a result of the formation of the Task Force unless additional resources are requested during the process.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

None at this time

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Safe and Sustainable Community

Moving forward with the 2nd crew at Cornell is consistent with the Council Approved Master Fire Plan and Implementation Plan approved in 2012.

Growth Management: The recommendation supports existing and future growth to achieve a consistent and equitable level of fire response across the City addressing areas experiencing service gaps.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Dave Decker
Fire Chief

Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community & Fire
Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Terms of Reference for a Fire Response Task Force
2. 2018 Report to General Committee - Master Fire Plan, Second Crew at Station 99 (Cornell)
3. Presentation to April 2018 General Committee