



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: January 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Master Fire Plan
PREPARED BY: Dave Decker, Deputy Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the report and presentation titled, "Town of Markham Master Fire Plan Presentation and Final Report to Council" be received; and,
- 2) THAT the Master Fire Plan be adopted, in principle, subject to further reporting; and,
- 3) THAT the Fire Chief be directed to report back to Council during 2nd quarter 2012 on priorities, cost implications and options for phased implementation; and,
- 4) THAT staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

To seek Council approval in principle of the Master Fire Plan and direct the Fire Chief to report back to Council during 2nd quarter 2012 on priorities, cost implications and options for phased implementation.

BACKGROUND:

In 2010, Markham Fire and Emergency Services received budget approval to undertake the completion of a comprehensive Fire Master Plan. A Fire Master Plan is a multi-year plan to deliver services based on the 'needs and circumstances' of a community. Dillon Consulting was hired to work with Markham Fire and Emergency Services on the review of current and future service delivery requirements and to assess current services in relation to legislated requirements, industry standards and best practices. Consultation was undertaken with each fire division, Senior Town staff, staff from other departments and members of the public.

In late 2011, Dillon Consulting provided staff with a DRAFT set of findings and recommendations.

The Fire Master Plan (appendix B) includes recommendations for all divisions within the Markham Fire and Emergency Services Department primarily related to projected growth, change in type of building stock and demand for services. A workshop with Members of Council was held on December 5th 2011, which presented the findings and recommendations.

Summary of Recommendations

The final report identified forty-two (42) recommendations. In many cases the findings and recommendations were consistent with what was already taking place within Markham Fire and Emergency Services. At this time 30 or 70% of the recommendations are in various stages of completion or planning has been initiated to move forward. The following seven sections of the Fire Master Plan that have recommendations are highlighted below:

Community Risk Management

There is only one recommendation for this area and it relates to the collection of community risk profile data to maintain an on-going snapshot of the risks Markham Fire is responsible to provide services for including public education programs, code enforcement and emergency response.

Division of Administration

Within the Administrative Division there are five recommendations of which three are either completed or being implemented at this time including availability of meeting rooms, Standard Operational Policy Committee, Review of policy for 24/7 availability of Chief Officers, and the remaining two have implications associated with hiring new positions and future consideration of a Human Resources position within fire.

Division of Fire Prevention/Education

Of the eight recommendations for the Fire Prevention/Education Division most deal with administrative actions to better understand existing fire prevention/education programs and make further recommendations, if required, to improve or enhance existing or new programs. Future full-time positions have been identified based on anticipated growth and workload. Implementation of the Community Based Fire Prevention/Education Model includes capitol budget implications and additional full time staff.

Division of Fire Suppression

The review of Suppression Division yielded nine recommendations including the Requirement for the Fire Chief to formalize risk based response and levels of service. In addition, a review of station bunker gear and general storage is currently being completed.

Specific to additional resources due to change in type of building stock and demand for services; there are recommendations including that an additional ladder truck be placed into service (2014), additional stations for Markham Centre (2017) and Langstaff (2019) to maintain levels of service to provide the resources necessary to respond in a safe and efficient manner.

Division of Training

There are eight recommendations based on the review of the Training Division including that MFES formalize qualifications and standards to ensure that the Department is compliant with the requirements of Health and Safety Legislation. Review existing training programs and records management. The Town has

approved that a feasibility study be completed in support of a facility that will enhance training programs and provide a venue for other training needs within the Corporation. Future consideration for staff and succession planning include the consideration of an Acting Chief Training Officer.

Division of Apparatus and Equipment

The review of the Mechanical Division included four recommendations of which several are actively being considered at this time. The reporting structure, division capabilities and facility will be further studied to plan for future needs. The standardization of apparatus will be completed by 2013 (including SPARE apparatus).

Division of Communications

Many of the seven recommendations concerning the Communications Division will be addressed with the move of the existing Alarm Room to 8100 Warden Avenue during 2012. There is a potential for changes to our entire radio system pending the York Regional Police radio system changes that may occur as soon as 2014. Any changes to the Regional system will have a direct impact on Markham Fire and the manner in which our radio communications infrastructure is managed. There may be a need for a complete a review of the operational requirements associated with the Alarm Room, which will include any future consideration for additional staffing.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE:

Will be reviewed and analyzed in the follow-up report.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATION:

Will be reviewed and analyzed in the follow-up report.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:


The Master Fire Plan to be completed in a manner that aligns with the Corporation's strategic priorities.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

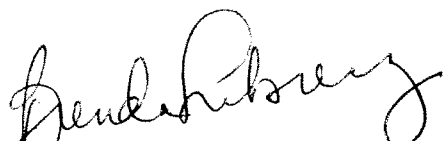
Consultation with various staff and business units detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDED

BY:



William Snowball
Fire Chief



Brenda Librecz
Commissioner, Community
& Fire Services