



## Council Report

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**Meeting Date:** 2025-06-16

**Department:** Fire Services

**Report Number:** Fire Services-2025-006

**Submitted By:** Mike Prior

**Approved By:** Stephen Donachey

**Subject:** Termination of Fire Service Agreement with Front of Yonge

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### **Recommendation:**

**That** Council authorize staff to terminate the Fire Protection Agreement between The Corporation of the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and the Corporation of the Township of Front of Yonge originally signed in 2001 that forms part of By-law 42-2001.

### **Background:**

Prior to amalgamation, the former Township of Front of Escott was provided with fire protection from Front of Yonge Township (FOY) and the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne fire services. After amalgamation, a Fire Protection Agreement was signed for the Township of Front of Yonge Fire Department to continue to provide fire service response to the eastern portion of the former Township of Front of Escott, now referred to as Ward 3 in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands (TLTI).

The response criteria included certain examples of what FOY would respond to alone such as fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, public assistance, and medical assistance calls and unauthorized burning. TLTI fire would still respond to structure fires, farm & ice/ water rescues and all larger scale calls within Ward 3. The remuneration for this agreement for Fire Protection was originally set at \$25,000. The current annual payment under the Fire Protection Agreement is \$38,639.25.

**Analysis:**

In reviewing the call volume of the past 1.5 years, a total of 45 incidents have happened in Ward 3 (19 in 2024 and 26 to May 2025). For each of the incidents, there has been a dual response from FOY and TLTI. For most of the calls, the difference in the response time is under 2 minutes. From a liability perspective, the Chief has instructed the Officers and Firefighters at TLTI Station 1 to respond to the scene regardless of whether FOY is on scene to assess the situation as TLTI is ultimately responsible. With the most recent events involving equipment issues with FOY Fire as well as Minimum Certification Standards and practices, staff have determined that the Fire Protection Agreement no longer is beneficial to TLTI.

Subject to Council's approval, staff would provide FOY with written six months notice of termination of the Fire Protection Agreement as required in the agreement.

Cancellation of the agreement does not mean that FOY will not longer be available to assist TLTI. FOY can still be called for mutual aid, or there could be an Automatic Aid Agreement reached in which FOY would be notified to respond at the same time as TLTI, without payment of the levy under the Fire Protection Agreement. TLTI has similar Automatic Aid Agreements with the Town of Gananoque, Township of Athens, City of Kingston and Township of Rideau Lakes.

**Alternatives:**

Council may choose to approve, deny or refer this matter back to staff for further information. Regardless, TLTI Fire services will continue to respond to all calls in Ward 3.

**Financial Implications:**

The cost of this Fire Service Agreement in 2001 was \$25,000. Over the past 24 years it has increased to \$38,639.25 with no extra added value to the response time or the residents of Ward 3.

**Relevant Policy or Legislation:**

Fire Protection Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and the Corporation of the Township of Front of Yonge – By-Law 42-2001

**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Council adopted the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands Strategic Plan (2021-2031) at its regular meeting held on November 8, 2021. The initiative contained within this report supports the following Strategic Pillars as set out in the Strategic Plan:

Delivering Effective and Accountable Government

Promoting Quality of Life and Environmental Stewardship

- Growing a Liveable Community with Great Services
- Fostering Jobs and Economic Development

**Consultations:**

This report was reviewed in consultation with: None:

**Attachments:**

01-42- Agreement with Front of Yonge.pdf