



Committee of the Whole Report

Meeting Date: 2025-07-07

Department: Fire Services

Report Number: Fire Services-2025-008

Submitted By: Mike Prior

Approved By: Stephen Donachey

Subject: Fire Services 6 Month Review

Recommendation:

That the Committee of the Whole receive this report as information only.

Background:

This report provides a summary of key metrics of Fire Services for the first six months of 2025.

Fire Services has responded to 216 calls for service in 2025. On this date in 2024, the Service had responded to 180 incidents. This puts the Fire Services at 36 incidents more than last year at this time. The large ice storm of March 28th accounted for approximately 30 of the incidents.

With the first round of provincial mandatory firefighter certification a little over one year away, TLTI firefighters and officers have been working on meeting the legislated deadline by July 2026. Multiple members are also continuing to certify for the required technical rescue disciplines that are covered under the Township's Establishing and Regulating Bylaw passed by Council in May.

Fifteen new recruits have been hired since January with eleven having attained NFPA Firefighter I. As well, since the opening of new Fire Station 2, three members of the public have begun the application to apply for this station.

Analysis:

Fire Administration:

The following is a breakdown of the emergency incidents in the first 6 months of 2025.

- Fire and Carbon Monoxide alarms - 55
- Structure Fires -15
- Fires (including vehicle, outdoor, hydro poles, any other fire) - 42
- Medical Assistance calls - 33
- Motor Vehicle Collisions - 35
- Public Hazard - 36

Certification:

Certification for Firefighter 1&2, with HazMat, for all firefighters as well as Instructor 1, Officer 1 and multiple Fire Prevention courses is due July 1, 2026. Fire Services members have been diligently working to certify the firefighters and the officers to their appropriate levels.

Station	FF1	FF2	Hazmat	Officer 1	Instructor 1
1	27/28 - 96%	25/28 - 89%	23/28 - 82%	5/9 - 56%	5/9 - 56%
2	12/12 - 100%	11/12 - 92%	10/12 - 83%	2/3 - 67%	2/3 - 67%
3	28/29 - 97%	23/29 - 79%	20/29 - 69%	10/10 - 100%	8/10 - 80%
4	14/15 - 93%	10/15 - 67%	10/15 - 67%	3/4 - 75%	3/4 - 75%
Total	81/84 - 96%	69/84 - 82%	63/84 - 75%	20/26 - 77%	18/26 - 69%

Fire Prevention:

Fire Prevention and Education activities have kept the Fire Prevention division active this year. The close cooperation with the Building and Bylaw departments as well as the OPP Mental Health Team has made a very cohesive and effective group.

The following are a list of activities for the first 6 months of 2025

- Fire Investigations -6
- Fire inspections (by request) -9
- Food Truck inspections -4
- School Public education events -2
- School Fire Drills -2
- Other public events, burn permit follow ups, coordinated visits and requests with building and bylaw -40
- 1,324 approved burn permits issued

Regional Training Center:

In 2024, the Ontario Fire College (OFC) made some significant changes and upgrades for students (firefighters) in Ontario. This past year, the OFC introduced a portal in which firefighters apply for OFC courses at Regional Training Centers (RTC) online. Previously, the Fire Services Administrator for the RTC would have to receive all applications to the courses being held at the RTC. This created a large workload for the RTC for the planning of all courses and coordinating applications. With the advent of the OFC Portal, firefighters in Ontario can apply to the courses online. Information entered in the Portal is available to RTCs in real time. All applications must be approved by the Fire Chief or senior staff within the department. This has been a huge improvement and releases administration staff from a great deal of work. The Portal also allows firefighters to see all the courses that are available at every RTC and whether the course is full. Lastly, the Portal also tracks courses successfully completed by firefighters and ensures that the firefighter has completed any prerequisite courses before accepting registration for a particular course.

For the 2025 calendar year, the TLTI RTC had 20 courses available. 7 OFC courses have been completed, 5 were cancelled due to lack of enrolment and there are 8 more coming up for the remainder of the year.

To date, the RTC has also provided 2 offsite certification courses to North Grenville Fire Services, one for a recruit firefighter course and a HazMat Awareness and Operations course.

Two internal certification courses have also held at the RTC for a firefighter recruit NFPA 1001-I Firefighter 1 and a Firefighter 2 course.

Since the beginning of the year, 159 students have taken certification courses through the RTC with 62 students of the students being firefighters for TLTI.

In May the RTC hosted Edwardsburgh-Cardinal Fire Services for a day of fire ground activities to increase the skills of their firefighters.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Relevant Policy or Legislation:

By-Law 23-014 to Establish and Regulate a Fire Service

O.Reg.343/22: Firefighter Certification

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:

None.