



Date: Tuesday February 23, 2021

To: Mayor Andy Mitchell and Council Members

From: Fire Chief Gord Jopling

Subject: 2020 Annual Report

Status: For Information

Recommendation

That the report from the Fire Chief dated Tuesday February 23th, 2021 regarding the 2020 Annual Fire Report be received for information.

Information

The following report provides Council with information on the operational division and major capital expenditures for the Fire Department in 2020.

Incident Calls

Total calls for the year 2020 were **1244** compared to **1305** in 2019, a decrease of 61 calls. Our medical calls again account for 67% of the years call volume. This percentage has been relatively stable for the past four years. See **Table 1** for breakdown of calls in attachments below.

Total Fire calls this past year were up over last year at 103 for 2020 versus 74 for 2019. Fire losses over the last few years are noted below:

2020 - \$ 1,682,000.00
2019 - \$ 66,177
2018 - \$ 2,932,200
2017 - \$ 2,216,000
2016 - \$1,014,650
2015 - \$7,585,400

The loss number seems high, but as costs are rising dramatically for building products and land costs, so are the structures insured costs. See **Table 2**, OFM breakdown call numbers and fire losses.

Motor vehicle accidents were down by almost half from the previous year – 2020 62 calls vs 2019 115 calls. False and CO alarm calls were both down compared to the past 3 years.

Table 3 shows the breakdown of the number of calls per each fire hall.

Table 4 shows total call numbers since 2008 to present

Personnel

The Fire Department currently (Jan 2021) has a roster of 95 personnel. All firehalls currently have a relatively healthy compliment of personnel after the hiring in late 2020. 14 individuals were appointed as Township of Selwyn Volunteer Firefighters.

- Joshua Hunter H#1 EOETA training required
- Jesse Villeneuve H#1 EOETA training required
- Charlie Kangas H#1 Pre fire service training
- Beth Barbosa H#1 Pre fire service training
- Arun Brar H#2 Pre fire service training
- Emily Dickinson H#2 Pre fire service training
- Tim Jansson H#2 Firefighter
- Owen Farmer H#3 EOETA training required
- Theresa Butwell H#3 EOETA training required
- Keely McCue-Whetung H#4 EOETA training required
- Jack Morgan H#4 EOETA training required
- David Groves H#5 returning Firefighter
- Ella Verner H#5 Pre fire service training
- Racheal Reese H#5 Pre fire service training

There were numerous resignations from the Fire Department in 2020 also. The resignations of the following firefighters were accepted and their service to the Selwyn Fire Department and our community was recognized:

- Mike Telford H#1
- Emily Mann H#1
- Charles Murphy H#1
- Ian Bolton H#2
- Keirsten Hamblin H#2
- Melissa Pede H#3
- Nadine Reichelt H#4
- Kevin Lanigan H#4
- Aaron Fallis H#5
- Tim Cavanagh H#5
- Tyler Ferguson H#5

Year eight of our Christmas service awards dinner was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was salvaged somewhat by a Zoom celebration to congratulate our long service winners this past year.

30 yrs- Dave Robinson, John Young

40 yrs, Ted Jackman, Jim McIntosh, Todd Wilson

50 yrs- George Jackman, Randy Jopling

The four recognition awards for outstanding service - the Mitchell Pogue Award, Outstanding Service Award, Excellence in Training Award, Exemplary Leadership Award - were also cancelled due to the impacts of the pandemic.

Fire Prevention Division - Andrew Bowyer, FPO

The outbreak of COVID-19 had a rippling affect across the province and impacted Fire Prevention education immensely. All in person Selwyn Fire Department events, including Fire prevention week Hall tours, school visits, pancake breakfast, festivals, and Swim to Survive were cancelled for the year.

The Covid-19 outbreak restrictions changed the way fire safety education was conducted. New initiatives were established so that the educational messages could reach as many people as possible.

Selwyn Fire Department once again partnered up with Community Safety Net to provide educational books on Fire Safety, Rural Safety, Babysitter Safety, Senior Safety, Water Safety, and Boater Safety. These books were provided free to the public and were displayed in various locations throughout the township.

On October 9, 2020 a Fire Prevention Week video was uploaded for residents in the community, in particular, students to watch. The 2020 Fire Prevention Week theme was "Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen". The video reminded residents of important safety tips. With the help of Firefighters Corey Stoodley and Steve Heinz, a tour of the apparatus and Personal Protective Equipment was included as well. Radio advertisements were also broadcast throughout the week.

Selwyn Fire Department also team up with Peterborough Fire Services for the annual 12 Days of Holiday Safety radio messages. This year Firefighter Drew Goble was the Departments representative. These messages played at various times throughout the day from December 12 – 23, 2020.

On December 22, 2020 550 brochures on Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Alarms, and Holiday Safety were distributed through Canada Post throughout Selwyn Township as a reminder to home owners. Also, there were various fire safety messages included throughout the year as part of the Township's ongoing social media campaign.

76 Burn Permits, were issued pre-Covid-19 restrictions, and 42 Smoke Alarms were purchased by residents.

Apparatus and Equipment

The replacement for the 1994 GMC topkick pumper P#51 was started in 2019 with the purchase of the chassis. Carl Thibault fire trucks was awarded as the company to build the truck. Delivery was in May. The new pumper was placed in service in Hall #1 Bridgenorth. The 2006 pumper in Hall #1 was moved to Hall #4 and the 2002 pumper in Hall #4 was placed in service in Hall #5 as a second out pumper. This pumper was originally placed in service in Hall #5 when it was purchased new in 2002.

The tanker, returning from a call in the late summer experienced a front tire blow out. While the driver was able to keep control of the truck, avoiding a more serious incident, extensive repairs were required. At that time fire and roads personnel, and the health and safety committee undertook a study to look at tire replacement for the fleet. While the Township fire apparatus do not see a lot of mileage and are more or less protected from the elements, the material in construction of tires does break down over the years. In order to keep personnel safe it was decided that all fire apparatus would see a tire replacement of 7 years for the smaller half ton types and 10 years for the heavy trucks. This was based on manufacturer's recommendations and NFPA best practices. If tires at the 10 year interval where sound they could be used on the Township roads trucks as they see continuous use and are changed quite regularly. The future replacement of the tires will come from a staggered schedule in the operations budget starting in 2023.

Training Division

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the first lockdown in March our traditional training sessions changed drastically. We could no longer train together as groups in the training room or firehalls. Our Training Coordinator Mike Goble along with a number of officers and firefighters overcame this challenge in record time to continue a semblance of normality for our personnel. As Mike was using WebEx with his school students, it was a natural fit for continued training for the department. There is training of the same topic each week for two weeks, with follow up and signoffs using the MILO learning management system. The Coordinator has put in a huge amount of effort and hours to produce the WebEx training. There has been great attendance from all personnel from the start. This platform allows all in attendance to ask questions or share thoughts and ideas. I believe this will carry on well into 2021.

Strategic Plan Reference

Achieve excellence in governance and service delivery

Financial Impact

None related to this report.

Environmental Impact

None related to this report.

Attachment

Table 1, breakdown of calls 2020

Table 2, OFM breakdown call numbers and fire losses

Table 3, breakdown of the number of calls per each fire hall

Table 4 shows total call numbers since 2008 to present

Gord Jopling

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