



Date: Tuesday February 8, 2022

To: Mayor Andy Mitchell and Council Members

From: Fire Chief Gord Jopling

Subject: 2021 Annual Report

Status: For Information

Recommendation

That the report from the Fire Chief dated February 8, 2022 regarding the 2021 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 20210.

Incident Calls

Total calls for the year 2021 were 1287 compared to 1244 in 2020, an increase of 43 calls. Our medical calls again account for 70% of the years call volume. While this percentage has been relatively stable for the past four years there was a 3% increase this year, likely somewhat attributable to the Covid situation. See **Table 1** for breakdown of calls.

Total Fire calls this past year well down over last year at 103 for 2020 versus 67 for 2021. **Table 2** details the fire losses in 2021.

Total fire losses over the last seven years are noted below:

2021 - \$ 5,648,520.00
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 high 2021 fire losses were impacted by the huge fire loss at Rotospa in July. The loss was pegged at around \$4,000,000.00.

Motor vehicle accidents were up from the previous year, with 87 calls in 2021 compared to 62 in 2020. False and CO alarm calls were around the same number as 2020. Other calls rose by 44 calls over 2020.

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 2022) has a roster of 90 personnel and all Halls currently have a relatively healthy compliment of personnel after the hiring in late 2021. In 2021 14 individuals were appointed as Township of Selwyn Volunteer Firefighters.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| • Corey Newman | Hall #1 | EOETA Training Required |
| • Valerie Yeo | Hall #1 | EOETA Training Required |
| • Kate Willis | Hall #1 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Mitchell Brundel | Hall #1 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Jeff Rutherford | Hall #1 | Firefighter |
| • Holly Wilson | Hall #1 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Arayla Dyer | Hall #2 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • David Hope | Hall #3 | EOETA Training Required |
| • James Allen | Hall #5 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Travis Finney | Hall #5 | EOETA Training Required |
| • Evan Tokarz | Hall #5 | EOETA Training Required |
| • Bryan Young | Hall #5 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Brock Timmermans | Hall #5 | Pre Fire Service Training |
| • Vanessa Young | Hall #5 | Pre Fire Service Training |

There were numerous retirement/resignations from the Fire Department in 2021 also. The following firefighters are no longer with the Department and their service to the Selwyn Fire Department and our community was recognized:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| • Ron Robinson | Hall #1 |
| • Charlie Kangas | Hall #1 |
| • Tim Gingrich | Hall #1 |
| • Ian Robertson | Hall #1 |
| • Stephen Mann | Hall #1 |
| • Frank Donald | Hall #1 |
| • George Jackman | Hall #2 |
| • Cory Stoodley | Hall #2 |
| • Patrick Vandenberg | Hall# 2 |
| • Tony Hopkins | Hall #4 |
| • Adam Dobbie | Hall #4 |
| • Mitchell Clarkson | Hall #5 |

- Rachel Reece Hall #5
- Caleb MacInnis Hall #5
- Evan Dodds Hall #5
- Gerry Dinesen Hall #5

The department also appointed 7 new Captains:

- Todd Wilson Hall #1,
- Dan Farrow Hall #2
- Mike Goble Hall #2
- Aaron Goedhuis Hall #2
- Kirt Jackman Hall #4
- Don Patterson Hall #4
- Brad Conlin Hall #5

Year nine of our Christmas service awards dinner was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic once again. A virtual celebration to congratulate our long service and recognition awards recipients was held again this year with great results. “Hats-off” to both Andrew Bowyer and Mike Goble for an excellent presentation.

5 year Dan Fletcher, William Quinton, Sonny McCue, Brandon Watson, Cody Wilson

10 year Justin Kidd

15 year Kyle Conlin, Garnett Hinds, Kirt Jackman

30 year Eric Bloomfield, Tim Gingrich, Scott Heard

60 years Norm Kyle

The four recognition awards for outstanding service – were also awarded this year this year with two members receiving an award from each category to make up for the cancellation of the awards in 2020.

Mitch Pogue Award - Alana Overink, Jake Andrews

Outstanding Service Award - Howie Jinkerson, Greg Frost

Excellence in Training - Jim Rosborough, Jordan Whelan

Exemplary Leadership Award - Jerry Jopling, Eric Bloomfield

Congratulations to all recipients on their successes.

Fire Prevention Division - Andrew Bowyer, FPO

As the outbreak of Covid-19 continued on in 2021, all in person Selwyn Fire Department events, including Fire prevention week Hall tours, school visits, pancake breakfast, festivals, and Swim to Survive were once again cancelled for the year.

The use of virtual tours, and innovative video sessions via social media were used for educational messages that could reach as many people as possible.

October 3 - 9, 2021 was Fire Prevention Week. Three videos were uploaded to YouTube for residents in the community, in particular students, to watch. The 2021 Fire Prevention Week theme was "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety". The videos focused on the importance of knowing the sounds involved with fire safety, including Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms, Sirens, and even our Radio and Who's Responding App sounds. We also used this opportunity to show how we respond as volunteer firefighters, and what the green light is for. The YouTube link was sent to KPRDS Board and the Catholic School board for distribution to schools throughout Peterborough County. Radio advertisements were also broadcast throughout the week.

Selwyn Fire Department also teamed up with Peterborough Fire Services for the annual 12 Days of Holiday Safety radio messages. This year Firefighter Keely McCue-Whetung was the Departments representative. These messages played at various times throughout the day from December 9– 20, 2021.

60 Burn Permits were issued, and 43 Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms were purchased by residents.

Apparatus and Equipment

In 2021 boats #2 and #5 were replaced. Both boats were showing signs of rubber delamination and were constantly requiring air to have the air bladders full. They were replaced with 18-foot solid welded aluminum flat bottoms boats. The boats are equipped with 60 hp outboard tiller motors. These boats will see a long service life compared to the zodiac type air bladder units previously used. As a bonus, Deputy Chief Jackman was able to procure a deal for the older boat #2 as a trade-in to the original builder for 3 more RIT rescue units that we use extensively for water, ice rescue. Every boat now carries one with a 4th unit in Hall #1.

In 2021 the department's multi gas detectors were also replaced. This was slated for one in 2021 and another in 2022 but we experienced one detector go out of service which left us with one. We were able to garner additional funds from other capital equipment sources to purchase 3 detectors and 2 test stations. The purchase of two more detectors in the 2022 capital budget will furnish multi gas detection in all firehalls. The test stations came in at a quarter of the cost of new as they were demonstration units.

Training Division

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the third lockdown since last March our training sessions continued using the WebEx platform. Mike Goble has been doing an outstanding job of supplying interesting and viable training sessions. Through the summer months we did get a chance to enjoy the outside and hands-on training in small groups. Again, this was quite an accomplishment for Mike as it involved setting up multiple sessions to get everyone involved. There continues to be great attendance from all personnel.

The Government of Ontario announced a onetime \$5M grant to municipal fire services to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Township was allotted a total share of \$8,800.00 dollars. This funding helped provide excellent live fire tower training at the EOETA in Norwood. The fund helped cover the costs for wages, rent of the facilities and other incidentals for the two days.

Strategic Plan Reference

Achieve excellence in governance and service delivery

Financial Impact

None related to this report.

Environmental Impact

None related to this report.

Attachments

- Table 1, breakdown of calls 2021
- 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

Prepared By: Gord Jopling, Fire Chief

Janice Lavalley

Reviewed By: Janice Lavalley, CAO