



**Date:** Tuesday February 28, 2023

**To:** Mayor Sherry Senis and Council Members

**From:** Fire Chief Gord Jopling

**Subject:** 2022 Annual Report

**Status:** For Information

## **Recommendation**

That the report from the Fire Chief dated February 28, 2023 regarding the 2022 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 2022.

## **Incident Calls**

Total calls for the year 2022 were 1378 compared to 1287 in 2021, an increase of 91 calls. Our medical calls account for 65.5% of the years call volume. This percentage has been relatively stable for the past four years. See **Table 1** for breakdown of calls.

Total Fire calls this past year are up over last year at 93 for 2022 versus 67 for 2021. **Table 2** details the fire losses in 2021.

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

2022 - \$ 3,531,000.00  
 2021 - \$ 5,648,520.00  
 2020 - \$ 1,682,000.00  
 2019 - \$ 66,177.00  
 2018 - \$ 2,932,200.00  
 2017 - \$ 2,216,000.00  
 2016 - \$ 1,014,650.00

Of the \$ 3,531,000.00 total losses in 2022, \$1,577,000.00 are from incidents in Curve Lake. The Townships total fire losses are \$1,954,000.00.

Motor vehicle accidents were down from the previous year, with 70 calls in 2022 compared to 87 in 2021. False and CO alarm calls are up slightly from 2021. Other calls rose by 36 calls over 2021 many due to the derecho winds that pushed through areas of the Township last May.

**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**

This past year has seen some change to fire administrative staff with the addition of a full time Deputy Chief to help with the administration and training requirements of the Department. Howard Jinkerson was appointed to the position effective June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 and we are very happy to have him back in Selwyn. Howie started as a new recruit with the Township in 2004 and then took on the role of Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) in 2014 to 2018. Howie then moved on to become an FPO for the City of Peterborough from 2018 until 2020 and then the Deputy Fire Chief for Trent Lakes from 2020 to 2022. This position will serve us well as we work through the Provincial regulation providing for mandatory certification requirements for all firefighters. The two past Volunteer Deputies Ted Jackman and Randy Jopling have stepped down to different roles in the department, Ted as Battalion Chief and Randy as a firefighter.

The Fire Department currently (Feb. 6, 2023) has a roster of 97 personnel and all Halls currently have a relatively healthy compliment of personnel after the hiring in late 2022. In December 2022 14 individuals were appointed as Township of Selwyn Volunteer Firefighters.

• Mark Bruce	Hall #1	EOETA Training Required
• Nitesh Chauhan	Hall #1	Pre Fire Service Training
• Clayton Kemp	Hall #1	Pre Fire Service Training
• Whitley Prentice	Hall #1	EOETA Training Required
• Nick Halmasz	Hall #2	Firefighter
• James Pinn	Hall #2	EOETA Training Required
• Adam Janssen	Hall #2	EOETA Training Required
• Carter Barrow	Hall #3	EOETA Training Required
• Mitchell Pickard	Hall #3	Pre Fire Service Training
• Conner Hill	Hall #4	Pre Fire Service Training
• Julie Tighe	Hall #4	EOETA Training Required
• Matthew Tokarz	Hall #5	Pre Fire Service Training
• Brandon York	Hall #5	EOETA Training Required
• Ben Minion	Hall #5	Pre Fire Service Training
• Krista MacDonald	Hall #5	EOETA Training Required

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

- Valarie Yeo                      Hall #1
- Beth Barbosa                    Hall #1
- Arayla Dyer                      Hall #2
- Arun Brar                         Hall #2
- Emily Dickinson                Hall #2
- Paul Handy                       Hall #3
- Dale Rose                         Hall #3
- Sonny McCue                    Hall #4
- William Quinton                Hall #4

Year ten 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 all the firefighters for an excellent presentation.

**5 years** John Sanguinetti, Jordan Whelen, Steve Woods, Mark Young  
**10 years** Laura Merrill, Kevin Powell  
**20 years** Reg Butwell, Chis Pearson, Jeff Rutherford  
**40 years** Jim McIntosh  
**50 years** Jerry Jopling

The four recognition awards for outstanding service were given on January 23<sup>rd</sup> over Zoom. There was a new award this year. The 5th award presented for dedication in work on fire prevention and education.

**Mitch Pogue Award** - Keely McCue-Whetung  
**Outstanding Service Award** – Dave Groves  
**Excellence in Training Award** – Todd Wilson  
**Exemplary Leadership Award** - Ted Jackman  
**Dedication to Prevention and Education Award** - Denis Rioux

Congratulations to all recipients on their successes.

### **Fire Prevention Division - Andrew Bowyer, FPO**

As the outbreak of COVID-19 continued in 2022, all in-person Selwyn Fire Department events, including Fire prevention week Hall tours, the pancake breakfast and Swim to Survive were once again cancelled for the year. However, we were happy to be able to attend all schools in Selwyn township during fire prevention week ( October 9 -15, 2022) for fire safety presentations. The 2022 theme was "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape!" and focused on the importance of planning home escape plans in the event of an emergency. In all, 845 students attended the presentations and received gift bags containing fire safety messages for both them and their parent/guardian.

The Shamrock Festival and the Lakefield Sidewalk sale allowed us the opportunity to set up booths with fire safety information as well as boating, water, seniors, babysitters and rural safety books in partnership with Community Safety Net. The information was well received by the public.

Once again, 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. This has been a successful way of reaching many audiences and will be part of our education strategy moving forward.

Selwyn Fire Department also teamed up with Peterborough Fire Services for the annual 12 Days of Holiday Safety radio messages. This year Firefighter Joshua Hunter was the Departments representative. These messages played at various times throughout the day from December 12– 23, 2022.

222 Burn Permits were issued, and 54 Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms were purchased by residents.

### **Apparatus and Equipment**

There were no major additions to the truck fleet or equipment upgrades in 2022. The apparatus tire upgrade was finalized this year using the small tool capital funds. Tire replacement will be placed in the operating budget starting 2023.

COVID has brought about critical shortages and long build order times for both apparatus and equipment. Departments are looking at up to and beyond 3 year wait times for apparatus replacement. Pricing of all fire related purchases has increased exponentially in the last three years. That pumper that is budgeted for replacement of \$480,000.00 is now edging \$600,000.00 and upward. Pump 51 is slated for replacement in 2025-2026. In order to keep the replacement schedule on track the chassis would need to be placed on order next year with a build time now pushing into 2027 or later.

### **Training Division**

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, our training sessions in the cold months 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 for 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. Mike Goble decided to retire from his teaching occupation and immediately jumped to the Fire Marshalls Office as a trainer for the training centres found throughout the Province. Due to this commitment, Mike stepped down as our training Co-ordinator after an excellent job for the last 10 years. The position of Training Coordinator was posted and, after interviews were conducted, Tim Janssen was

appointed to this position. Tim is a Hall 2 firefighter with extensive background experience and knowledge from his full-time firefighter position. Tim has started some training sessions that have been well received.

With the Ontario Regulation 343/22, requiring mandatory certification for all firefighters, being implemented July 1, 2022, Howard has been quite busy compiling personnel training documentation for our department that will determine further legacy opportunities. This will help in reducing further firefighter training for those that were hired prior to July 1, 2022.

The overall impact of the Regulation is being assessed by the Department and further information will be provided to Council in 2023. To meet certifications for those firefighters hired after July 1, 2022 and any technical rescue for all personnel, the training and operations budget will see substantial increases in future years.

### **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 2022
- 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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**Prepared By: Gord Jopling, Fire Chief**

*Janice Lavalley*

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**Reviewed By: Janice Lavalley, CAO**