

Department 10 - Fire Services

Overview

The Fire Service operates from five halls located as follows: Hall 1 – Bridgenorth, Hall 2 – Lakefield, Hall 3 – Young's Point, Hall 4 – Curve Lake and Hall 5 – Ennismore. As well, Hall 6 - Slaters Corners is utilized for department storage.

Revenue

The major source of revenue for this Department is taxation. This budget now accounts for just over 20% of the net tax levy.

Operating fees and receipts include revenues from fire service agreements with Curve Lake First Nation (CLFN), Township of Douro-Dummer and the City of Kawartha Lakes. The CLFN fee represents the large majority of the fees received. Revenue estimates have typically been established using a three-year average of past revenues and receipts.

Insurance claims for motor vehicle accidents (MVA) has represented a substantial revenue figure for the fire service for numerous years. More recently this revenue has declined. Revenues are impacted by the number of MVA incidents that occur in any given year and, whether or not charges are laid. A number of insurance companies are no longer paying the invoices citing that they are not providing this coverage as part of their policies. Council has an approved policy that would provide for direct billing to drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents where there is no insurance coverage.

Expenditures

The attached pages have been compiled by the Fire Chief, updated as part of the budget process and provide a detailed breakdown of expenses estimated for 2026.

Call volumes in 2025 were significantly impacted by the ice storm. However, with a full year under the new tiered response protocol and the implementation of the new Medical Dispatch Priority System (MDPS) by the Province in mid-March, the Department did continue to experience decreased call volumes last year. In line with this trend, the estimated call numbers have been reduced conservatively in the budget. The Fire Chief will continue to be vigilant with follow-up to the Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC) to ensure the protocol is being properly administered.

The Department continues to work through the requirements of the new Mandatory Certification regulations. In accordance with Council's direction in December 2025 the budget provides for the consideration of making the current part-time Training Coordinator position full-time. This would provide the additional resources required for the department to manage many of the new training requirements in-house and would also assist with managing some of the duties previously performed by volunteer firefighters. The budget provides for



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consideration of this position being phased in starting with a 6-month period in 2026.

The budget also provides for the Township to join the Peterborough County Search and Rescue Unit (SRU). This will help the Township manage the numerous Technical Rescue components of the mandatory certification, including ice/water rescue, trench rescue, rope rescue, confined space rescue and search and rescue. There is a one-time cost of \$22,000 to join the SRU and an annual membership fee of \$1,000. The budget proposes to fund the cost of joining the unit from the General Government Reserve.

Capital projects in 2025 include the annual PPE replacement program and miscellaneous equipment replacements including extrication equipment, defibrillator, hose and nozzle, small equipment and communication equipment replacements and a new stock pumper. Details for these purchases are included in the Capital section of the budget document.

There has been a dramatic increase in costs to purchase equipment in all Departments. In the Fire Department in particular, a thorough review and update of the equipment replacement schedule demonstrated that the current contributions to the reserve are not sufficient to sustain the fleet over time. A capital levy was established in 2025 to help ensure that the Township is in position to maintain the fleet required to continue providing the existing level of service.

The second stock pumper in the fleet is planned to be purchased in 2026.

Feedback on the new style of truck is positive. Fire Department staff will continue to review fleet configuration and truck style with a goal of reducing capital expenditures over time, e.g. it is anticipated that when the large rescue units (1 and 2) are due for replacement it will be with a smaller rescue unit more similar to current Rescue 5.



The transfer to reserves includes a transfer to the equipment reserve as well as to facilities and property reserve from development charges related to fire facilities, i.e. re-payment for the Young's Point Fire Hall construction cost.

