



## *Office of the Warden*

*County of Middlesex, 399 Ridout Street North, London Ontario N6A 2P1  
warden@middlesex.ca*

January 30, 2012

Mayor Joe Fontana  
Sent by e-mail and fax

Dear Mayor Fontana:

### **Re: 2012 Land Ambulance Budget**

Recently the City of London Services Review Committee requested representatives from the County's Emergency Services Department to appear to discuss the 2012 Land Ambulance Budget submission at their February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. I am writing to inform you that I have directed our employees not to attend this meeting.

As previously discussed, the authority for provision of Land Ambulance Services within the City of London and the County of Middlesex falls under the authority of the Council of the County of Middlesex. It is our Council's view that the budget that was submitted to the City of London is a fair and accurate request for funding to meet the system requirements for 2012.

As you know, the County of Middlesex and the City of London agreed to a process to address any land ambulance budgetary concerns. This process includes a discussion at the City / County Liaison Committee and if not resolved at that level the issue is advanced to third-party dispute resolution. With this agreement in mind, I think it is imperative that our Council's follow the agreed upon protocol that has served us well for over a decade.

I understand that the Services Review Committee is seeking answers to our budget and reasons why the submission missed City Council's target of 1.5%. I have been advised that Emergency Services staff from the County of Middlesex have submitted documentation supporting our budget request and have attended all previously requested meetings in order to answer any questions from Council members as they consider this budget submission. While we were in attendance at your last meeting, we were not called for explanation or asked to provide comment at the meeting.

If we were provided the opportunity to present our budget information at our last meeting, our Council would have provided you with the following rationale for approval of the Land Ambulance Budget as submitted:

- The 2012 submission is the same amount as the actual 2011 Land Ambulance Operating budget. During the 2011 year, the Land Ambulance system received additional funding from the province to the base operating budget. The increase in 2012 is requested in order to catch up to the Ministry of Health's 50/50 funding formula.
- Any reduction by the City of London would be met by a matching reduction from the Province of Ontario, causing further strains on this emergency system.
- The City of London set a budget target for Land Ambulance at 1.5%, while providing other emergency services, such as Police and Fire with a 3% budget target.
- Land Ambulance is facing several budget pressures in 2012 that will exceed the 1.5% budget target set by the City, these include payroll taxes, OMERS increases and the renewal of a collective agreement that will most likely see an increase in excess of 1.5%.
- The Land Ambulance System, is currently experiencing pressure on demand for service which often result in the system seeing vehicles within the City almost being depleted and County ambulances brought into the City to restore/support emergency coverage. Any further reduction to the budget would see a greater strain on County ambulances being brought into the city to provide support for a reduced level of service.
- While the 2012 budget did not request an increase in frontline vehicles, there is no doubt that 2013 will see a request for additional staffing to address the increasing demands for Land Ambulance Service needs within the City of London.
- Emergency Services Department staffs from the County along with the County Treasurer have been working closely with City staff, including Senior staff from the City on this budget throughout 2011 and it is my understanding that the City's administration supports the land ambulance budget as submitted.

In closing, Mayor Fontana it is my view that the County of Middlesex has provided ample support for the budget as submitted to your administration, your Council and to you personally. I understand that all municipalities are facing budget challenges, but I strongly believe that ensuring appropriate land ambulance services for our residents should continue to be a top priority. I look forward to discussing this issue with you further at the city / county liaison committee table if required.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Maudsley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more stylized.

Jim Maudsley  
Middlesex County Warden

cc. Bill Rayburn, CAO  
Neal Roberts, Director of EMS