



Public Safety Committee

London Fire Departmental Service Orientation Briefing

2012/03/06

London Fire Department

Organizational Structure

- **Primary Manager Contacts**
 - Business Unit Manager & Apparatus Division
 - John Kobarda, Fire Chief
 - Fire and Rescue Operations & Special Services
 - Brian George, Deputy Fire Chief
 - Fire Prevention and Education
 - Dan Oldridge, Deputy Fire Chief
 - Training, Communications & Special Projects
 - David Lazenby, Deputy Fire Chief
 - Planning, Finance, Facilities & Administrative Projects
 - Gwen Francis, Manager - Planning & Finance

Mission - Intended Outcomes

- Reduce loss of life, property & environment through:
 - Education
 - Smoke alarm program, distribution of fire safety material, educational programs
 - Prevention
 - Schedule inspections
 - Fire code complaint inspections
 - Ontario Fire Code enforcement
 - Fire & Rescue
 - Balanced effective and timely response to emergencies

Regulating Legislation

- Fire Protection and Prevention Act, S.O. 1997, Chapter 4
 2. (1) Every municipality shall,
 - (a) establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and
 - (b) provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

Methods of providing services

- (2) In discharging its responsibilities under subsection (1), a municipality shall,
 - (a) appoint a community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team; or
 - (b) establish a fire department.

Municipalities may establish fire departments

5. (0.1) The council of a municipality may establish, maintain and operate a fire department for all or any part of the municipality. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (2).

Fire departments

(1) A fire department shall provide fire suppression services and may provide other fire protection services in a municipality, group of municipalities or in territory without municipal organization. 1997, c. 4, s. 5 (1).

Fire chief, municipalities

6. (1) If a fire department is established for the whole or a part of a municipality or for more than one municipality, the council of the municipality or the councils of the municipalities, as the case may be, shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Responsibility to council

(3) A fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to the council of a municipality that appointed him or her for the delivery of fire protection services.

Legislative Requirements

- Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997
- Ontario Fire Code
- Public Fire Safety Guidelines
- Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000 (Propane)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, as well as Section 21 Guidance Notes
- WSIB – Presumptive Re: Cancers
- Ministry of Transportation
- Various Standards
 - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
 - Underwriter’s Laboratories of Canada (ULC)
 - Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

Service Categories

- **Provincially Mandated**
 - Fire Safety Education
 - Fire Prevention & Fire Code enforcement
 - Fire and Rescue Services
 - Approve Fire Safety/Emergency Plans of Large Propane Sites
 - Review Fire Safety/Emergency Plans of Smaller Propane Sites
- **Council Directed/Approved**
 - Specialty Rescue
 - Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Water/Ice Rescue
 - Mutual and Automatic Aid
 - County & London Airport
 - Defibrillation (Cardiac Calls)
 - Open Air Burns
 - Fire Investigations
 - Dispatch Service to Middlesex County

Service Groupings

- Fire Prevention and Education
 - 20 budgeted staff
 - Fire Prevention – 16 budgeted
 - Public Education – 4 budgeted
- Fire and Rescue
 - Fire Fighting Division – 360 budgeted staff
 - Support Divisions – 39 budgeted staff
 - Communications – 14 budgeted
 - Clerical and Stores – 5 budgeted
 - Apparatus – 7 budgeted
 - Training – 7 budgeted
 - Administration – 6 budgeted
- Specialized Services
 - Cross-trained Dual Role Fire Fighters

Fire and Rescue

- Fire Fighting
 - Fires and Rescues
 - Motor Vehicle Collision (Medical Assistance and Extrications)
 - Emergency Medical (Cardiac Emergencies)
 - Natural Gas Emergencies & Carbon Monoxide
 - Open Air Burns
 - Agency Assistance
- Fleet Maintenance
 - Preventative Maintenance and Annual MTO Inspections
 - Major and Minor Repairs - 27 Diesel Powered Front Line Fire Apparatus, 33 Trucks, Vans and Cars, Snow blowers, Mowers
 - Inspect, Test, Maintain & Repair - 135 SCBA, 440 Air Cylinders, 5 Breathing Air Compressors
 - Inspect, Maintain & Repair – 8 sets of Hydraulic & Pneumatic Extrication Equipment

Key Issues & Strategies

- Department needs to maintain capital investment plan to redistribute existing Fire Fighting Division resources to maximize service delivery. **
- Growth of City outside Urban Growth Boundary may impact the service delivery of response time goal of 4 minutes response time requiring addition of resources.
- Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) released in November 2010 a risk/response matrix that may affect resource and fire apparatus requirements. **
- Planning decisions with respect to where growth occurs, the types of occupancies, street design/urban design, traffic calming etc. may affect resource requirements. **
- Downloading by Senior Levels of Government (i.e. Inspection and Approval of Propane Sites, Clandestine Labs) **
 - Limited to No Training Provided
 - Increased Workload Stretching Limited Existing Resources
 - Work and Responsibility Downloaded but No Funding Provided
- Fluctuation on the U.S. and Canadian dollars severely impacts cost of fire apparatus and equipment purchases

Key Issues & Strategies

- Changes to vehicle requirements in NFPA 1901 (every 5 years), ULC S515, and the Environmental Protection Act in the United States affect the size of vehicles and escalate fire apparatus costs well beyond inflation.
- Implementation of the next phases of AODA will impact costs and resources.
- Current station relocation capital budgets have no provision to absorb new urban design principles, as they were developed on a “firehouse” model
- OFM and other regulating bodies are creating standards for positions such as Communicators, Training Instructors, Mechanic/ Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVT), Inspectors and front line staff but provide limited or no mechanisms to achieve certification. **
 - These standards create additional pressures and challenges with respect to training, backfilling vacant positions, hiring new staff, and possibly increase liabilities.
- Challenges surrounding filling support positions internally because of 24 hour shift and potentially externally because of the introduction of experience pay (3%, 6%, 9%)



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Key Issues & Strategies

- Investment by U.S. government in Public Safety is driving changes in Canada
 - Latest example is the P25 radio standard **
- Increased requirement for performance reporting requires significant support from Technical Services Division and/or significant funding for a specialized records management program(s).
- The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office (OFM) requires the City to annually review and submit a compliance report for approval. The purpose of the report is to ensure that the Department has adequate resources and programs in place to meet the needs and circumstances of the Community with respect to emergency service, public education and fire prevention services.**
- Vehicle staffing based on Master Fire Plan recommendations and NFPA 1710
- Use of frontline fire fighters to supplement public education strategies
 - Smoke Alarm program
 - After the Fire program

Partnerships

- Continue to explore partnering opportunities
 - Radio system
 - move to City system vs standalone
 - 911 back up centre
 - provided opportunity to London Police to use Fire station
 - Emergency Operations Centre
 - proposed use of Station 12 to minimize costs to taxpayers
 - Middlesex County – EMS
 - Station 14 is a joint facility
 - Exploring opportunities at Station 9, possibly Station 10
 - Fanshawe College
 - Possible joint training facility that may include many other partners
 - Fire fighter training, fire prevention inspector training