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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2013
FROM:	JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF, LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT:	AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL ELGIN

RECOMMENDATION

That on the recommendation of the Fire Chief and the concurrence of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services that the following action be taken:

The attached proposed By-law (Appendix A) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting of March 26, 2013:

- a. **TO APPROVE** the agreement with the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin (Schedule A) for the provision of automatic aid to the response area outlined in the agreement; and
- b. **TO AUTHORIZE** the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement in a above

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- November 12, 2008 Board of Control; Automatic Aid Agreement with Central Elgin and Termination Regarding Belmont Area Fire Board

BACKGROUND

As previously reported to Council, the City of London became responsible for providing fire services to an area previously served by the Belmont Area Fire Board following annexation in 1993. At that time, the City entered into an arrangement whereby the Belmont Fire Department provided initial response to that area. Subsequently, an amalgamation of Belmont with several other municipalities, which resulted in the creation of Central Elgin in 1998, caused a review and revision of the arrangement. At its meeting on November 12, 2008, Council approved entering into an agreement with the Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin for the provision of automatic aid to the affected response area of the City for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012. Given the locations of London Fire Department (LFD) fire stations relative to the area, the LFD cannot provide a level of service the residents of the area are accustomed prior to and since annexation, without the assistance of Central Elgin's Belmont station. Entering into an agreement with Central Elgin for the provision of fire service to the area is a cost-effective method of maintaining the continuity of the level of service. It should be noted that London Fire Department vehicles are simultaneously dispatched to alarms in the area; however, the response from Central Elgin's Belmont Station reduces the initial response time.

Financial Impact

LFD Administration is recommending that this arrangement be continued for an additional five (5) years to ensure a stable and cost effective fire service delivery to the area of the City as noted in the agreement. The annual amount charged for the service in 2012 was six thousand six hundred and two dollars (\$6,602.00), which represented an increase of 3% per annum from 2008. LFD administration have been in discussions with the Fire Chief of the Municipality of Central Elgin and jointly have agreed that an on-going increase of 3% per annum represents a fair increase for the continuing delivery of this service. This would result in the cost of the service to be six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,800) in 2013, seven thousand and four dollars (\$7,004) in 2014, seven thousand two hundred and fourteen dollars (\$7,214) in 2015, seven thousand four hundred and thirty dollars (\$7,430) in 2016, and seven thousand six hundred and fifty-three dollars (\$7,653) in 2017.

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The attached agreement has been reviewed by the City Solicitor's Office and the Risk Management Office. The agreement includes a mutual indemnification agreement for any negligent acts or omissions of the parties or their legal representatives related to the agreement. Given the nature of the arrangement and that the City Fire Department will assume command on arrival at any event, the risk is low.

SUMMARY

As a result of the annexation that occurred in 1993, the City became responsible for fire service to an area served by the Belmont Fire Area Board. Subsequently, an amalgamation of Belmont with several other municipalities, which resulted in the creation of Central Elgin in 1998, caused the City to enter into an automatic aid agreement with the Municipality of Central Elgin. Entering into an automatic aid agreement with Central Elgin with respect to the delivery of initial response fire services provides the City a cost effective method of ensuring the residents of the area maintain the service levels they have been accustomed prior to and since annexation.

RECOMMENDED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF	LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES
REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:	
MIKE TURNER DEPUTY CITY TREASURER	