



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Ed Thiessen, Director of Fire Service/Fire Chief

Department: Fire Services

Date of Report: January 11, 2022

Report Number: Fire-22-04

Subject: Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis – Dillon Consulting

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- The report of the Director of Fire Service/Fire Chief dated January 11, 2022 (Fire-22-04) regarding the Fire Master Plan Implementation – Fire Station Location Strategy be received;
- That the presentation by Dillon Consulting regarding the Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis be received; and further that Council authorize administration to append the Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis report from Dillon Consulting to the Fire Protection Services Master Plan – 2019;
- That the strategy of Scenario 3 as presented in the Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis Report from Dillon Consulting be approved;
- That Council authorize Administration to prepare a Financial Plan for Scenario 3; and further that Council authorize Administration to plan and prepare a virtual public information platform to present the three-station analysis to the community.

Report

The Town of LaSalle is a growing community and has been for some time. The Town is growing at rates higher than projected. As such, the addition of a fire station has been part of the Fire Master Plan recommendations since the 2008 Fire Protection Services Master Plan. The key factor in this recommendation is the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 guideline which requires that fire apparatus and four firefighters

arrive on scene within four minutes. A variety of site selection activities have been completed since 2008 and remain unsuccessful.

The report presented today by Dillon Consulting addresses the ultimate full growth buildout of our community. The three proposed station locations provide additional coverage (within the 4-minute response NFPA guideline) particularly in the Town Centre area where increased multi residential development is occurring and are more conducive to building within existing neighborhoods. In the past, finding sites has been problematic.

Over the past several years, the LaSalle Fire Service has had challenges maintaining the full complement of Volunteer Fire Fighters, which has led to challenges meeting the NFPA guidelines. To date we have been able to provide the appropriate level of fire service and response, however as these recent trends continue with the volunteer complement this will become increasingly difficult. The proposed three-station model is based on moving towards staffing each location with full time firefighters, over the longer term and the implementation of the Fire Master Plan. This shift towards more full-time staff was recommended within the 2019 Fire Master Plan, however, will be fast tracked in order to allow for the best possibility to continue to meet the NFPA guideline of 4 firefighters in 4 minutes and 10 fire fighters in 10 minutes.

Dillon Consulting's Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis includes a recommendation to increase our volunteer firefighter compliment to 48. LaSalle Fire Service currently operates with an allocation of 32 volunteer firefighters. The increase of this number will be reviewed by Administration based on the local needs and circumstances of the Town of LaSalle and LaSalle Fire Service. Variables of consideration for increasing our volunteer firefighting compliment include, building stock, community growth and resulting increase in call volume. However, monitoring the ability of LaSalle Fire Service to meet the NFPA 1720 guideline requiring ten firefighters on scene within ten minutes will be a key element used to determine when to increase our volunteer firefighter compliment.

If approved by Council, the next steps for Administration are to prepare a financial plan that aligns with Scenario 3 in Dillon Consulting's Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis. Furthermore, Administration is proposing to organize a virtual public information and educational outreach to explain the impacts of the three-station fire service model to the community and importantly the areas surrounding the proposed new fire station locations.

In addition to the above noted public information outreach, the Douglas Marketing Group has already prepared an educational campaign for the Town of LaSalle that focuses on the importance of the fire service in our community and is ready to be launched. This additional fire services educational campaign will be launched concurrently with the three-station public information launch.

The plan is to prepare and present this financial plan and a summary of community comments at the March 22, 2022 Council Meeting. The objective for the March 22, 2022 meeting is to provide Council with information that will enable Council to provide direction to Administration on moving forward in 2022 with the design of Station 2 (West) location and to acquire the land and designate lands for the Station 3 (East) site.

Lastly, Council is being requested to approve appending the updated three station fire service model analysis to the current/existing fire master plan. By appending this update to the current master plan, the two documents will act harmoniously with each other and be available for any future references in one convenient document.

Consultations

J. Milicia, C.A.O.

P. Marra, Deputy C.A.O

D. Langlois, Director of Finance/Treasurer

D. Hadre, Director of Strategy & Engagement

Dillon Consulting

Financial Implications

The financial plan for the Fire Protection Services Master Plan – 2019 has been approved by Council and this plan did include the building of two new fire stations. This is consistent with the Three Station Fire Service Model Analysis presented today with the exception of the operating cost of the existing Station 1 (Main/Central) fire station.

The approved financial plan will be updated to include the current recommendation and provision for advancing the timetable of hiring additional fulltime firefighters. This revised plan will be presented to Council for consideration at the March 22, 2022 meeting.

Prepared By:



Director of Fire/Fire Chief

Ed Thiessen

Link to Strategic Goals

1. Enhancing organizational excellence - Yes
2. Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town - Yes
3. Grow and diversify the local economy - No
4. Build on our high-quality of life - Yes
5. Sustaining strong public services and infrastructure - Yes

Communications

Not Applicable.

Notifications

Not Applicable.