

## **CITY OF VAUGHAN**

### **EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2022**

Item 22, Report No. 46, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on December 13, 2022.

#### **22. VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Manager, dated December 12, 2022:**

##### **Recommendations**

1. THAT the 2021 Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report be received for information.

## Committee of the Whole (2) Report

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**DATE:** Monday, December 12, 2022      **WARD(S):** ALL

**TITLE:** VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE 2021 ANNUAL  
REPORT

**FROM:**  
Nick Spensieri, City Manager

**ACTION:** FOR INFORMATION

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### **Purpose**

The Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) 2021 Annual Report highlights the ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance fire safety and fire prevention efforts taken through education and prevention mechanisms, in addition to our performance as it relates to providing a quality, efficient and effective emergency response service such that life safety outcomes are improved. The report outlines our critical initiatives which were vital in achieving strategic objectives, mitigating challenges, capitalizing on opportunities and ensuring our service is continuously evolving and enhancing our ability to serve and protect our citizens.

### **Report Highlights**

- Provides a summary of the key activities and initiatives within the fire prevention/public education, operations, mechanical, training, communications divisions.
- Outlines the service priorities which ensures efficient and effective fire service for those who work, live, play and learn in the City of Vaughan.
- Communicates and demonstrates that VFRS offers the delivery of fire prevention, protection and emergency services; meeting the current and evolving diverse needs of our City.

## **Recommendations**

1. THAT the 2021 Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report be received for information.

## **Background**

An annual report ensures transparency in operational performance, builds public awareness and ensures continuous improvement. The annual report highlights the programs, initiatives, challenges and achievements for the past year. It recognizes all the members of the VFRS team; firefighters, fire prevention inspectors/investigators, communications officers, training officers, mechanics and clerks; for the vital role they play in keeping our community safe.

This annual report demonstrates we are continuously evolving and improving as a fire service, and we utilize data which is gathered and analyzed to help inform future decision-making in terms of programs, initiatives and service delivery.

## **Previous Reports/Authority**

All previous annual reports can be found on the City of Vaughan website [using this link](#).

## **Analysis and Options**

This report supports the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan; as we move forward on our journey of Service Excellence, and deliver on Council approved city-building initiatives including:

Safe, Active and Diverse Communities

- Enhance community well being
- Maintain safety in our community

Good Governance

- Ensure transparency and accountability

Citizen Experience

- Commitment to Citizen Services

Operational Performance

- Leverage data driven decision making processes
- Promote innovation and continuous improvement

Staff Engagement

- Empower staff

## **Financial Impact**

None.

## **Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations**

None.

## **Conclusion**

The Annual Report complements our other communication strategies, such as city social media, newsletters, departmental website, public information, brochures/postcards, public education events and information sessions, and overall department branding strategy.

**For more information,** Andrew Zvanitajs, Fire Chief, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service, ext. 6301.

## **Attachment**

1. Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service 2021 Annual Report

## **Prepared by**

Andrew Zvanitajs, Fire Chief, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service, ext. 6301.

## **Approved by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager



# VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**







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MESSAGE FROM

# Mayor Steven Del Duca

The City of Vaughan's Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) is a group of highly trained and skilled professionals who have answered the call of public service. The men and women of VFRS have dedicated their lives to ensuring the safety and protection of our families, neighbours and the public spaces we use every day.

On behalf of the citizens and businesses of Vaughan, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to all members of VFRS for their commitment to public safety and Service Excellence. VFRS has a long and proud tradition of serving our community and providing the highest level of fire-related emergency services to protect the life and property of Vaughan residents.

Above and beyond responding to emergencies, VFRS is entrenched in the

community, delivering public safety messages to all ages, from preschoolers to seniors. In addition, members actively fundraise for worthy initiatives, collect donations on behalf of the Vaughan Food Bank and generously volunteer their time and talent to provide critical fire safety education.

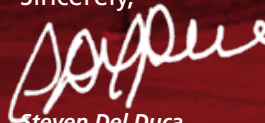
In 2021, we welcomed Andrew Zvanitajs, a valued and respected service member since 1997, as Vaughan's new Fire Chief. Under Chief Zvanitajs' leadership, members keep our entire community safe and uphold VFRS's position as a leader in emergency service delivery in Ontario.

Every day, the members of VFRS demonstrate courage, compassion and humanity, which earned them an unprecedented 100 per cent satisfaction rating from the people of Vaughan. This is a testament to firefighters'

vital work to safeguard our communities. We are proud and grateful for our exceptional team of firefighters in Vaughan.

Thank you for serving our city with pride and honour.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca  
Mayor





# MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER Nick Spensieri

On behalf of the City of Vaughan's Senior Leadership Team – Executive, I would like to thank everyone in Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) for the incredible work they do and for the steps they take to keep our communities safe and protected.

As our lives begin to return to our "new normal," I am grateful for the dedication and incredible strength VFRS team members continue to demonstrate on a daily basis. Through uncertain times, the team has pivoted and adapted to the pandemic and

service levels remained uninterrupted. Throughout COVID-19 and now beyond, VFRS first responders have delivered Service Excellence 24-7 to the community.

While 2021 was not without its challenges, VFRS staff have persevered – and have come out stronger than ever. Work has not slowed down, and innovation and opportunity have thrived. The team found more ways to educate the community about fire safety and prevention, new recruits have been trained and joined the

Service, and homeowners and businesses have relied on the support of highly skilled first responders when emergencies happen.

Thank you to every member of VFRS for everything you do. Your collective passion, commitment to the community and expertise show through in everything you do.



*Nick Spensieri*

*City Manager, City of Vaughan  
on behalf of the Senior Leadership Team – Executive*





# MESSAGE FROM THE Office of the Fire Chief

This past year was again filled with challenges for fire departments across Ontario. The global pandemic seemed to wane, and then hit us with more waves, testing our ability to remain flexible and safe while conducting business. We continued to prove we are adaptable, and performed all aspects of our work in a dynamic and changing environment.

City building continued throughout lockdowns and the VFRS continued its support of Vaughan's growth and development by providing timely inspections

and reviews for new infrastructure. In 2021, we saw our first recruitment of new firefighters in nearly three years and added 16 new staff to our operations divisions. The Training Division added a new full-time Training Officer to complement the growing demands on staff learning and development. I cannot express my gratitude enough to all VFRS personnel; you make this job easy by continuing to be dedicated professionals and perfecting your trade each and every day through your outstanding personal performances.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Members of Council for their dedication to public service, continued support and leadership during the final phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Andrew Zvanitajs, Fire Chief  
Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service*





## VFRS MANAGEMENT TEAM



*Deputy Fire Chief  
Grant Moffatt*



*Deputy Fire Chief  
Mike Doyle*



*Deputy Fire Chief  
James Arnold*



*Assistant Deputy Fire Chief  
Michael Ing*

### OUR MOTTO

### PRIDE AND HONOUR

### OUR MISSION

To provide programs to protect lives, property and the environment from adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies and other dangerous conditions.

### PHILOSOPHY OF OPERATIONS

- **Success** is dependent on providing citizens with what they need, when they need it—always.
- Fairness, integrity, and trust as essential **qualities** of ethical emergency service.
- Progressive thinking and learning through employee involvement and **teamwork**.
- **Citizens** as customers, deserving the highest quality of service.
- Duty-bound through perseverance and commitment to **excellence**.
- Our **trademark** caring about people with dignity and respect.





## VFRS SENIOR COMMAND TEAM

### PLATOON CHIEFS

**A Platoon:** Brian Culp

**B Platoon:** Jason Salisny

**C Platoon:** Robert Wilk

**D Platoon:** Peter Maynard

### DISTRICT CHIEFS

**A Platoon:** William Smillie

**B Platoon:** Jerry Nicosia

**C Platoon:** Michael Gorveatt

**D Platoon:** Jack Benbihy

### Training Division: Chief Training Officer

Michelle Moulton

### Fire Prevention Division: Chief Fire Prevention Officer

Darren Lynch

### Mechanical Division: Chief Mechanical Officer

Chris Dennis

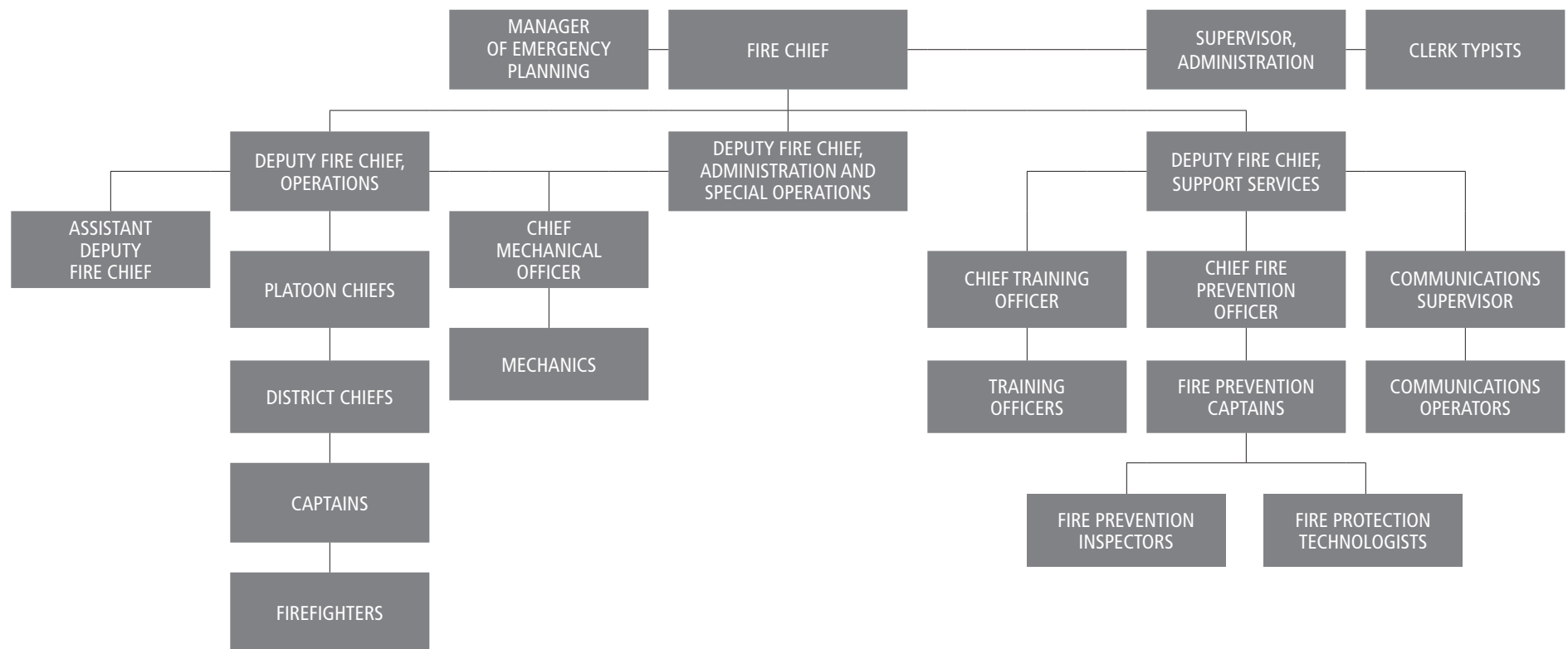
### Communications Division: Supervisor

Andrea Alexander



## VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# Organizational Structure







# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





This was the second full year of modified operations for most public sector emergency services due to the pandemic. VFRS continued a steady pace of adapting and altering some service delivery models to meet the demands of public and staff safety, and growth and development were top of mind in 2021. We have acquired land for a new fire station in the Weston Road and Rutherford Road area, planning and design is well underway for Station 7-12. VFRS attended more than 11,000 calls for service and continued our frontline service delivery uninterrupted throughout 2021. New highrise training and procedures are being implemented as we continue to meet the growing need for response to high-density housing structures as city building continues. This gives VFRS a robust, flexible response capacity in all urban environments. As it does every year, this report highlights our accomplishments and the people that make VFRS one of the most respected fire services in Ontario.



VFRS responded to

**11,063 calls**

in Vaughan and dispatched

**1,291 calls**

in King Township

**1,122**

plan  
examinations

**CLOSED**

**1,472**

inspections

**CLOSED**

**3,507**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION  
EVENTS**

(7 fire prevention events  
and 3,500 Alarm for Life)





# OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION





VFRS continues to use an Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) framework to track its departmental goals and outcomes. This helps support the alignment of resources, priorities, processes and technology with Vaughan's 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan. This also helps align annual budgets (both operating and capital), program areas, key activities and programs to deliver on the City's goals.

#### OBJECTIVE 1

- Shorten response time through an upgraded pre-emptive traffic technology pilot program in partnership with York Region.

#### OBJECTIVE 2

- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.

#### OBJECTIVE 3

- Build a new fire station for operations in the Weston Road and Rutherford Road area.

#### OBJECTIVE 4

- Implement Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system.

#### OBJECTIVE 5

- Strengthen capacity to manage emergencies that align with the mandatory elements of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and its regulations.





# Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan 2018-2022

**Mission** ● —  
Citizens first  
through Service  
Excellence.

**Vision** ● —  
A city of choice that promotes diversity,  
innovation and opportunity for all citizens,  
fostering a vibrant community life that is  
inclusive, progressive, environmentally  
responsible and sustainable.

**Values** ● —  
Respect  
Accountability  
Dedication

The 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan reinforces the City of Vaughan's mission, vision and values, representing the core of how the administration will go above and beyond to deliver on Council's priorities through Service Excellence.

The Strategic Plan identifies the strategic priorities that the administration will focus on to support the City of Vaughan in being a City of Choice for both residents and businesses.

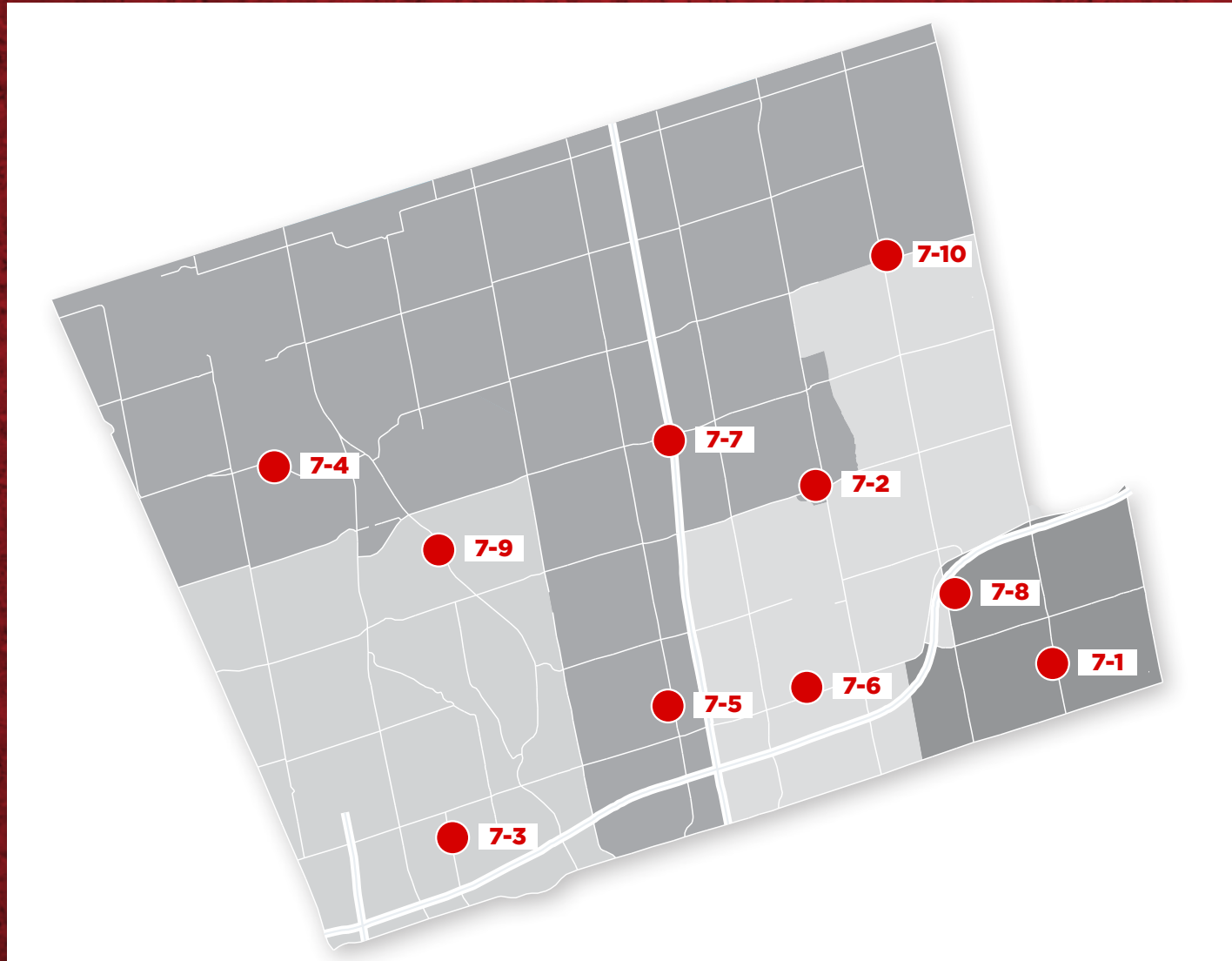


[vaughan.ca/ServiceExcellence](http://vaughan.ca/ServiceExcellence)





## VFRS RESPONSE AREA MAP



### **STATION 7-1**

835 Clark Ave. W.

### **STATION 7-2**

9290 Keele St.

### **STATION 7-3**

7690 Martin Grove Rd.

### **STATION 7-4**

835 Nashville Rd.

### **STATION 7-5**

2 Fieldstone Dr.

### **STATION 7-6**

120 McCleary Crt.

### **STATION 7-7**

40 Eagleview Hts.

### **STATION 7-8**

111 Racco Pky.

### **STATION 7-9**

9601 Islington Ave.

### **STATION 7-10**

10800 Dufferin St.



# FIELD SUPPORT UNIT AND





Volunteers play an important role in VFRS. Both our Field Support Unit and the Honour Guard have attended many events and incidents over the past year.

The Field Support Unit attended eight calls for service, including five structure fires, one vehicle fire with exposures, one grass/brush fire, and assisted the Training Division throughout the year. The Rehab Team assists with the rehabilitation and hydration of the crews on scene of major incidents. We also continue to make ourselves available for Concerts in the Park, the CP Holiday Train supporting the Vaughan Food Bank, and the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Woodbridge. This vehicle is operated by volunteers, which consists of six current staff and two retirees from the department.

The Honour Guard remains available and at the ready when called upon. Due to COVID-19, there was a limited number of callouts for the Honour Guard in 2021. We continue to be available for the Recruit Graduation, funerals, events at Vaughan City Hall for the Mayor and Members of Council, the annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Toronto and the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Woodbridge. The Honour Guard consist of approximately 16 current and retired firefighters, captains and communications operators from the department.

The Honour Guard and the Field Support Unit are always prepared to assist the department, the Mayor and Members of Council, and the citizens of Vaughan.

# D HONOUR GUARD





## PEER SUPPORT

The Peer Support team is a group of peer-elected volunteers that are available to support staff within the organization. The team consists of members from fire prevention, fire communications and fire suppression, and includes a group of dedicated individuals working to ensure there is access to a variety of programs and services for our members. These services can be utilized to improve self-care and manage stress throughout a demanding career in public service.

The Peer Support team has been working hard to support our brothers and sisters throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We have remained readily available for VFRS staff and have been able to listen and help connect members with local services as required. Peer Support has assisted in various incidents, from single traumatic calls to personal challenges staff have faced, by offering resources within the community.



Based on limitations of in-person learning, the Peer Support team has been connecting through Zoom and phone conferences to work towards adapting our means of training and staying connected through COVID-19 restrictions.

The Peer Support team remains dedicated to offering a range of services. Whether we are helping to find local resources or connecting members with crisis services, there is a strong dedication held within the group to ensure the needs of the individual are met with confidentiality, care and compassion.

We would like to remind everyone to check in on your loved ones and neighbours, and to offer compassion and understanding as we all navigate the challenges of the last two years. Please remember that although we are all facing the same storm, every one of us navigates it with a different boat.

Stay well and be safe.

Vaughan Peer Support





# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



The Communications Division is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist callers with emergency and non-emergency calls. This dedicated group of individuals assess callers' needs and sends out necessary fire resources while ensuring citizen and firefighter safety. Operators have continued to keep training certifications up to date and have been completing APCO Fire Service Communications course in-house.

In the fall of 2021, a new software program was introduced that aids in the timely notification of off duty operations staff in the event a vacancy needs to be filled.

The division continues to prepare to upgrade systems and equipment to meet the legislated requirements for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911). In late 2022, voice service will begin to transition across Canada for all emergency service call centres.

# EMERGENCY PLANNING DIVISION

The COVID-19 pandemic emergency response continued to be the program's main focus throughout 2021. The year began with a surge in cases caused by three new variants – named Alpha, Beta and Gamma – that peaked in early January. The Alpha variant was more transmissible and caused more serious illness than the original virus. After a brief trough in February and March, the third wave that descended in April and May was caused by the Alpha and Delta variants. The declaration of the City's State of Emergency reached its one-year anniversary on March 17, 2021. The year ended as it began with a surge in cases caused by the Omicron variant that resulted in a 622 per cent increase in cases in Vaughan. While more transmissible, the Omicron variant had less serious health outcomes than the previous variants.

Throughout the year, the Emergency Management Team (EMT) transitioned from lockdowns to gradually reopening programs, then back into lockdowns and more restrictions. The EMT adapted our response and reopening strategies when the province moved from the colour-coded Framework for Reopening to the Roadmap to Reopen process, which was based on health indicators and vaccination levels. The EMT supported the provincial vaccination strategy by working with York Region Public Health to turn the Maple Community Centre into a mass vaccination centre and provided non-clinical staffing from March through to the end of the year.







The City's response and research efforts in managing the COVID-19 pandemic were recognized by our peers. Research conducted by a team of Vaughan librarians to help inform our response was instrumental in removing the regulation that required returned library materials to be disinfected and quarantined. Their research found the virus did not survive for an extended period of time on fomites. The Association of Strategic Planning selected Vaughan to receive the Richard Goodman Special Edition Pandemic Award for our strategic response to the pandemic.

A comprehensive review and update of business continuity plans was facilitated by the program. Updates to the business continuity plans identified critical staffing levels and certifications required to mitigate potential impacts to service delivery by a more severe pandemic wave.

The EMT participated in Exercise Concrete Bungle in November to practice responding to and recovering from a building collapse emergency. The exercise used a hybrid method with command level staff of the EMT convening in the Emergency Operations Centre with their scribes and the officers of their section participating on the virtual Teams platform. The exercise involved 142 members of the EMT, including external stakeholders, and ran for two and a half hours.

# FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division is committed to providing Vaughan citizens with the first two lines of defence: public education and fire inspection code enforcement. Currently, VFRS employs nine fire inspectors, two fire protection technologists/plan examiners and two fire prevention captains that are under the supervision of a chief fire prevention officer.

Members of the team:

- review building permits with fire detection and suppression systems.
- conduct fire safety inspections of new/existing buildings.
- implement enforcement tools under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*.
- provide fire prevention cross-training to the Operations Division.
- investigate fires to determine the origin and cause.
- deliver fire safety public education through organized events, media, door-to-door campaigns and training sessions.







## ACHIEVEMENTS

The theme for Fire Prevention Week in October 2021 was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety!” Information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms was shared with the public through the City’s social media channels and on the radio through 105.9 The Region. The week-long information campaign also included five new animated videos titled:

- Make sure you have an escape plan
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month
- Learn how to properly use a fire extinguisher
- Make firework safety a priority

During the week, the videos were viewed more than 2,860 times and when combined with social media impressions, content was shown 32,235 times with 16,985 unique views. The videos remain available on our website and the City’s YouTube channel as a key source of information for the public.

To continue to adapt inspection services to meet the changing needs of businesses, citizens and other organizations, inspections were performed on-site and/or remotely with live video connections on tablets, laptops or smart phones.

## TOP FIVE IGNITION SOURCES IN STRUCTURAL FIRES IN 2021:

1. Open flame tools, smokers' articles
2. Electrical distribution equipment
3. Miscellaneous
4. Cooking\*
5. Appliances

*\*In 2021, cooking was the leading cause of fire in residential settings.*

Ignition sources are grouped together in categories outlined in the Ontario Fire Marshal's Standard Incident Reporting (SIR) manual. There are 10 categories of ignition sources: cooking, electrical distribution equipment, heating equipment, appliances, lighting, processing equipment, open flame tools, other mechanical/electrical, miscellaneous, and exposure.

Open flame ignition sources include lighters, matches and cigarettes, as well as salamander heaters, cutting and welding equipment, and blow torches.

Miscellaneous is a term used in standard incident reporting that groups together ignition sources that do not have a category (e.g. fireworks, static electricity, chemical reactions).



# Set a meeting place





#### 2021 INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Accidental fires	14
Intentionally set fires	1
Undetermined fires	1
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS</b>	<b>16</b>

#### FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

During 2021, VFRS members worked diligently to safely conduct in-depth investigations of fires and explosions resulting in death, injury or significant property loss. By investigating the origin, cause and circumstances of these events, valuable data is collected and utilized to further develop the Fire Prevention Division priorities and strategies. VFRS investigators continued to develop and maintain the skills required to complete investigations in accordance with industry standards. Five investigators completed training to the level of NFPA 1033 - Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator. In 2021, VFRS investigators completed 16 in-depth investigations related to fires that caused one civilian death, one civilian injury and an estimated \$6.1 million in property loss.

### REPORTED FIRES BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION

A: Assembly	7
B: Care and detention	2
C: Residential	64
D: Business and personal service	2
E: Mercantile	9
F: Industrial	33
Structures/properties not classified	30
Vehicles	55
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>202</b>





# MECHANICAL DIVISION



The Mechanical Division has remained open for business throughout the pandemic, continuing to ensure our fleet of vehicles remain ready and able to provide the services needed to the citizens of Vaughan. Our fleet continues to evolve, ever searching for a greener alternative in constructing our next vehicles. This involves reduced emission vehicles, including lithium battery power systems assisting in maintaining key functions.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division faced the second year of the global pandemic where our strong, dedicated group of firefighters continued to deliver the services needed by the citizens of Vaughan. VFRS continued to respond daily to all requests for service, including fires, motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies and requests to check a condition in the home.

We began integrating and rolling out new fire stream nozzles in 2021. The TFT Vortex smooth bore nozzle provides firefighters additional water flow with a hard-hitting water stream. These nozzles allow for a longer reach with a concentrated flow in a volume required to combat today's fires while enhancing firefighter safety.

## FIRE LOSS OVER \$500,000

Location	District	Property Type	2021 Date
Clarence St.	73	Sports Facility	February 16
Rutherford Rd.	72	Residential	March 3
Swinton Cres.	71	Residential	March 7
Netherford Rd.	72	Residential	March 19
Fernstaff Crt.	78	Manufacturing	April 24
Wigwoss Dr.	73	Residential	April 25
North Park Rd.	71	Residential	April 25
Woodstream Blvd.	73	Residential	May 13
Torrey Pines Rd.	74	Residential	June 21
Navy Crt.	77	Residential	June 30
Keele St.	72	Manufacturing	November 21





# TRAINING DIVISION



The Training Division supports all operations staff by creating and delivering comprehensive training programs geared toward the disciplines practiced by our large, urban fire department. These programs include fire suppression, emergency medical services, specialty rescues, officer development, and introducing and integrating new apparatuses and equipment.

Despite the challenges presented by the global pandemic, 2021 was full of many unique training opportunities, and for the first time, a recruit candidate evaluation was held. This ensured the best candidates were selected to join the VFRS family in the 2022 Recruit Class.

Technical rescue crews from Stations 7-2 and 7-5 spent periods of the year working on their technical rope rescue skills. Simplified tactics formed around the evolving high-angle hazards our city faces, coupled with new specialized equipment, prepared crews to progress to the point they were able to rappel off the clock tower at Vaughan City Hall – more than 130 feet high. Crews look forward to more challenging training opportunities in 2022, as well as trench and water rescue training initiatives.

After extensive testing, VFRS has transitioned from the use of combination nozzles to Vortex smooth bore nozzles. The new nozzles represent a significant increase in the volume of water flowing at the nozzle, while achieving that volume at a considerably reduced pumping pressure. This allows for greater ease of handling and hoseline management by fire suppression crews. More tactical and deployment strategies involving hoseline management will be focused on in 2022.







# SERVICE RECOGNITION

## FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL RECOGNITION (FEDERAL RECOGNITION)

- Sohail Ali
- Karen Barr
- Mike Brumell
- Barbara Holmes
- Paul Knaggs
- Trent Lamoure
- Kelly MacGregor
- Christine Mercado
- Thomas Milne
- Jason Puopolo
- Troy Ricci
- Derek Ward

## ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Orban Antonio
- Kevin Plested
- William Smillie

## 2021 PROMOTIONS

- Captain Andre Antoniazzi
- Captain Stuart Collins
- Captain Peter Defina
- Training Officer Joshua Graham
- Captain Thomas Milne

## RETIREMENTS

- Richard McCurdy
- Lisa Reid
- Mary Rita
- Lawrence Sibbald
- William Smillie
- John Wilmot







# LOOKING AHEAD

## TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

The department will be using a new fleet and asset management program that will track the usage and age of key items (e.g. fire vehicles, bunker gear, nozzles and helmets) and notify staff when items are due for replacement. It will assist in decision-making for replacements based on historical information of the asset and help plan and budget.

VFRS will work with York Regional Police to develop critical technological changes that will alter how information will be processed and transferred in the future as the existing 9-1-1 system is completely transitioning to the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system. Networks must be ready to provide NG911 voice services

and text messaging services, and must be made available through a system called Real-Time Text (RTT), allowing for a conversational flow of communication.

## FUTURE FIRE STATION PLANNING

VFRS has been using Geographic Information System (GIS) to help determine the locations for future fire stations. GIS is a computer system that analyzes and displays geographically referenced information. It uses data that is attached to a unique location. This includes looking at current and future residential properties and businesses, and factoring in land availability, to select the most optimal location based on response time.







# 2022 BUDGET AND 2023 F

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service delivers timely and effective mitigation of emergencies to ensure fire code compliance and to promote the prevention, education and preparedness for emergency situations for the citizens of Vaughan.

## 2022 BUDGET

(\$M)	2020 Actuals	2021 Approved Budget	2022 Approved Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
User Fees	0.6	0.9	0.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Labour	51.5	51.8	54.6
General Maintenance, Repairs, Utilities	1.5	1.3	1.4
Communications	0.4	0.4	0.4
Other	0.8	0.9	0.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>
<b>Net Operating</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>56.5</b>
<b>Capital Plan</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>

# FINANCIAL PLAN



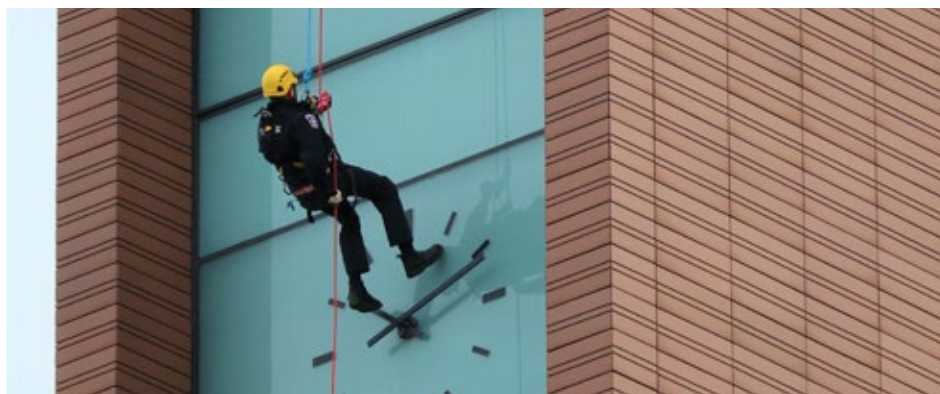


## VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASURES (2019 - 2022)

(\$M)	2019	2020	2021 YTD	2022 ESTIMATE
Investigations	-	1,230	1,500	1,650
Plan Examinations	-	972	980	985
Fire Education (number of contracts)	-	3,698	3,600	3,900

**NOTE:** 2019 data is not comparable as a result of a change of methodology. 2021 YTD forecast as of October 2021.

- It is vital for the City to provide public education, fire investigation services, and ensure that buildings and properties are constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable fire and life safety regulations. The three lines of defense for fire protection include public education, enforcement and suppression. Effective prevention and public fire safety education are likely to have a direct and substantial positive impact on reducing the demand on emergency response services. Public education is considered a proactive activity that promotes fire safety throughout the community.



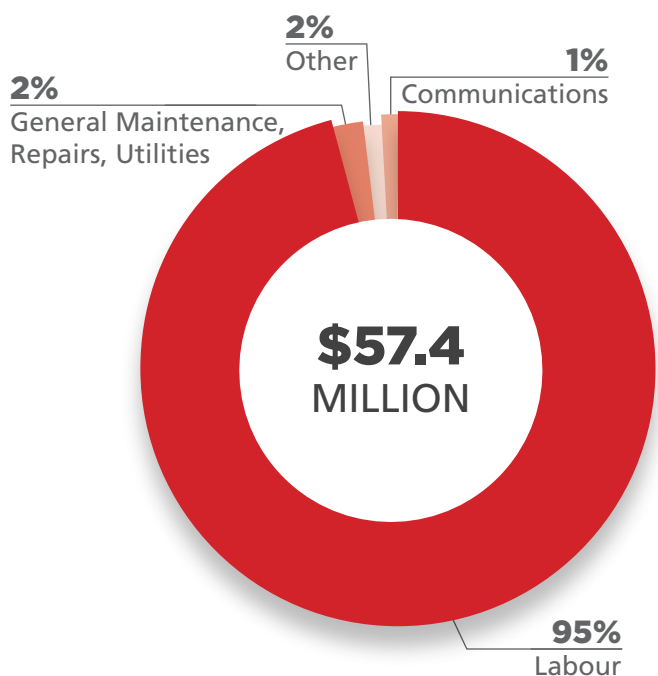
## 2021 KEY RESULTS

- Continued to implement a city-wide pre-emptive traffic technology pilot in partnership with York Region.
- Provided a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.
- Offered VFRS subject matter expertise on the design and build of Fire Station 7-12.
- Provided VFRS subject matter expertise on the implementation of NG911 to address the changing needs of emergency communications and service delivery.
- Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service is the recipient of an \$80,100 grant from the Province of Ontario co-ordinated by the Ontario Fire Marshal. The grant will be used towards adopting a model of remote online learning for on-duty staff, specialized mannequins and the ability to perform virtual inspections during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service and Corporate and Strategic Communications have launched a number of public education initiatives throughout the summer. These campaigns promoted fire safety at cottages, safe barbecuing, outdoor fireplace safety and safe firework disposal.

## 2022 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Decrease response time through an upgraded pre-emptive traffic technology pilot in partnership with York Region.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the design and build of Fire Station 7-12.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the implementation of NG911.
- Strengthen the Emergency Management Program to maintain compliance with *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

## 2022 GROSS OPERATING EXPENDITURES



FUNDING TYPE	\$M	%
User Fees	0.9	1.5%
Taxation	56.5	98.5%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>100%</b>

**BUDGET CHANGE:** The increase in operating budget in Fire and Rescue Service is driven by labour progressions; an increase of eight full-time equivalents outside of normal budget cycle, as approved by Council on September 27, 2021; and three additional resource requests as detailed below.

## BUDGET CHANGE

(\$M)	2020	2021	2022
<b>NET OPERATING BUDGET</b>		52.1	53.5
Status Quo		1.5	1.7
Growth		-	1.2
New		-	0.1
<b>Net Operating Budget</b>	52.1	53.5	56.5
<b>Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>357</b>

**NOTE:** The 2021 FTE count includes an increase of eight full-time equivalents, as approved by Council on September 27, 2021.

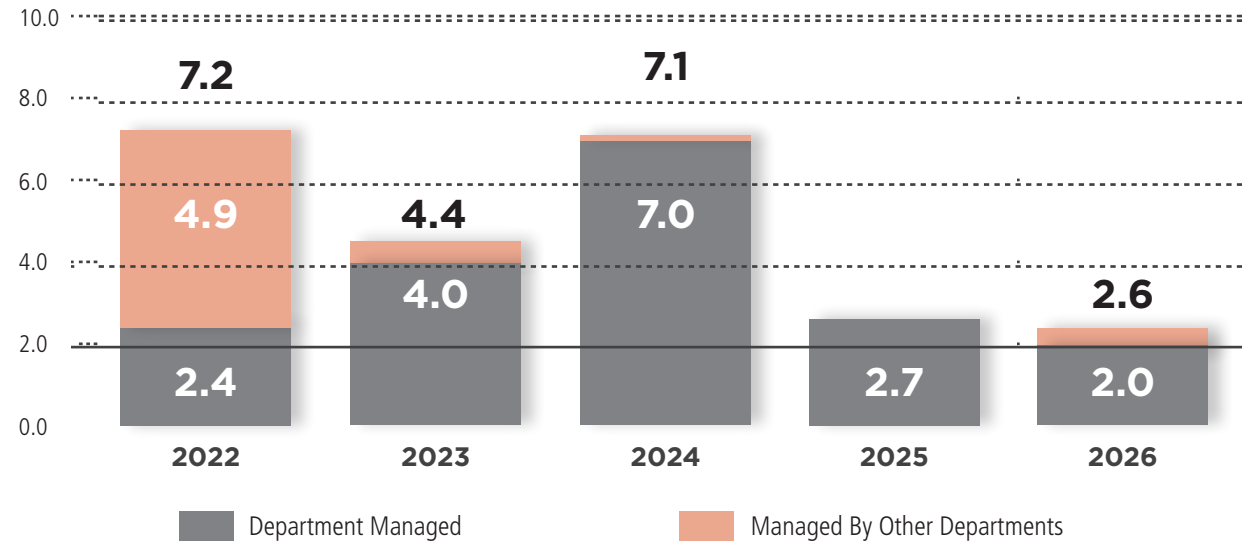




**NEW REQUESTS:** There are three new requests for 2022 in the Fire and Rescue Service department. The first relates to Advanced Bunker Gear Inspection, Cleaning and Testing. An Emergency Planning Advisor is also requested to support maintaining safety in our community through proactive measures of public education, training, and exercises in meeting legislated requirements. Lastly, a Fire Life Safety Education and Diversity Outreach Officer will assist in prevention initiatives to promote behaviours that contribute to safe living in our community.

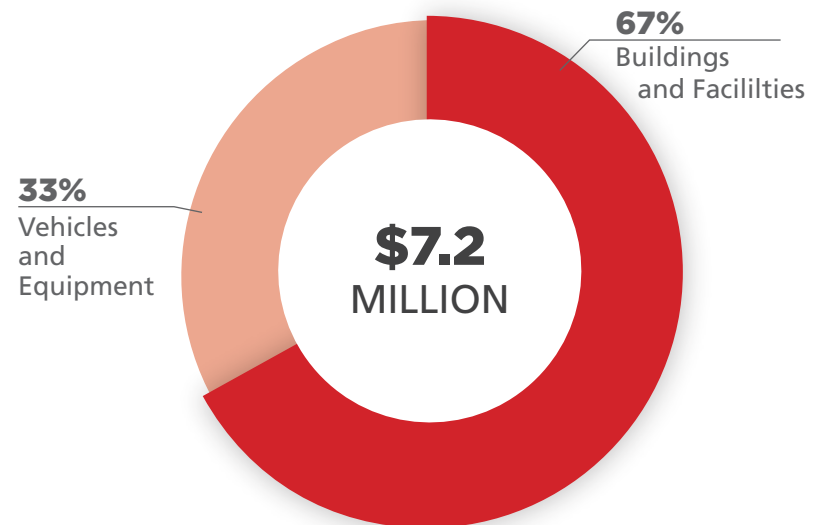
INDEX NUMBER	NEW REQUESTS (\$M)	FTE'S	2022
100-1-2022	Advanced Bunker Gear Inspection, Cleaning and Testing	-	0.05
100-2-2022	Emergency Planning Advisor	1.0	0.12
100-3-2022	Fire Life Safety Education and Diversity Outreach Officer	1.0	0.09
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.26</b>

**CAPITAL SUMMARY:  
2022 BUDGET AND  
2023-2026 CAPITAL PLAN (\$M)**



**2022 CAPITAL BUDGET**

The 2022 capital budget request includes \$2.4 million in capital projects that will be managed and reported on by the Fire and Rescue Service department. Another \$4.9 million is managed by Facilities Management on behalf of Fire and Rescue Service.





## 2022 BUDGET AND 2023-2026 CAPITAL PLAN INCLUDING OPEN PROJECTS BY STRATEGIC PLAN

(\$M)	OPEN	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Service Excellence Strategic Plan</b>						
Active, Safe and Diverse Communities	12.0	4.1	4.0	7.0	2.7	2.0
City Building	0.1	0.5	-	-	-	0.6
Environmental Stewardship	1.3	2.7	-	-	-	-
Good Governance	0.4	-	-	-	-	-
Operational Performance	-	-	0.3	0.0	-	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>

## 2022 BUDGET AND 2023-2026 CAPITAL PLAN BY FUNDING SOURCE

(\$M)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Funding Source</b>					
Development Charges	1.8	0.3	3.3	0.0	0.6
Infrastructure Reserves	3.9	4.1	3.8	2.6	2.0
Grant	1.5	-	-	-	-
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>









CITY OF VAUGHAN

**VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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