

Finance, Administration, and Audit Committee Report

DATE: Monday, May 06, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: MASTER FIRE PLAN 2018-2028 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

FROM:

Mary Reali, Deputy City Manager, Community Services

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide Council with information regarding the Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy related to improvements and future delivery of fire and rescue service in the City of Vaughan. The Implementation Strategy consolidates all salient objectives and projects of the Master Fire Plan (MFP).

Report Highlights

- The Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy aligns with the City of Vaughan 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan.
- The legislative requirements governing the provision of municipal fire and emergency services in the Province of Ontario have been incorporated in both the Master Fire Plan and the corresponding Implementation Strategy.
- Community expectations; including citizens, stakeholders, government organizations, industries, business owners and corporate partners have been reflected in the plan.
- Many of the 45 recommendations contained in the Master Fire Plan, across all divisions of the Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service, are already being implemented. Others, tethered to budget requirements, or reflecting growth, will be prioritized as part of the annual operating and capital process.
- VFRS is a pro-active fire service leader in the value-added delivery of fire prevention, protection and emergency services, meeting the current and evolving diverse needs of our City.

Recommendations

1. That the 2018-2028 Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy report and presentation be received by Council.

Background

The City of Vaughan recognizes the value of creating a strong community vision through a commitment to strategic planning. This includes the 2018-2022 Term of Council Service Excellence Strategic Plan, which is aligned to Vaughan Fire & Rescue's strategic priorities; which includes people, processes and technology to deliver on our commitments for this Term of Council and throughout the next ten years. The fire master planning process is intended to support the City's goals and objectives in creating a City of choice.

The provincial ***"three lines of defence"*** model has proven to be an effective strategy in reducing the number of fire related fatalities and injuries and reducing the overall impacts of fire while enhancing the safety of firefighters.

The three lines of defence include:

- i) Public Education and Prevention;
- ii) Fire Safety Standards and Enforcement;
- iii) Emergency Response.

The options and recommendations presented within the MFP are intended to optimize the use of this model in providing the most effective and efficient level of fire protection services, with the most value to the community.

The analyses within the Master Fire Plan (MFP) have been developed utilizing the previous fire master plan that was completed in 2007. It has now reached the end of its ten-year community planning horizon. The 2018-2028 MFP has been developed in consideration of the municipality's legislative requirements as contained within the Fire Prevention & Protection Act (1997), and the Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990 (OHSA). In addition, current industry best practices as defined by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and leading industry organizations such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have been utilized to guide and inform the recommendations presented.

VFRS has implemented the majority of the 2007 MFP recommendations, including additional fire stations and firefighters. The ability of the VFRS to achieve and sustain its identified performance goals and objectives in the delivery of emergency response services are identified in the new 2018-2028 Master Fire Plan and Implementation Strategy.

Analyses within the MFP presents findings that indicate the VFRS is proactive in optimizing the use of the first two lines of defence, including the delivery of public education and prevention programs and the application of fire safety standards and

enforcement. VFRS prides itself on being highly visible within the community and takes every opportunity to engage and educate the public on fire safety. Education, inspections and code enforcement are crucial tasks carried out by the VFRS. As our first line of defence, there has been an increased focus on fire prevention outreach and proactive fire safety education across all fire service divisions, with the goal of preventing fires before they occur. Fire safety programs include Alarms for Life, After the Heat, Adopt-a-School, promoting home escape planning, distributing fire safety educational materials to residential owners and occupants, releasing public service announcements through media initiatives and connecting with residents through social media.

VFRS are well trained and equipped to undertake the variety of challenges presented to a modern-day fire service. Training and certification of our firefighters validates our overall response capabilities and our firefighters have become multi-faceted in their daily functions, making VFRS more adaptable as a fire and rescue service, capable of responding to any emergency incident. The VFRS professionalism remains grounded firmly in education, training and certification and our professional standing validates and demonstrates credibility to colleagues, City Officials and the public. VFRS continues its unwavering call to protect and serve.

Previous Reports/Authority

2007 Master Fire Plan

2007 Fire Master Plan Implementation Strategy

2018 Master Fire Plan and Community Risk Assessment (Dillon Consulting).

Analysis and Options

The Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy is derived from the recommendations outlined in the 2018-2028 Master Fire Plan produced by Dillon Consulting. Council adopted the current Master Fire Plan and instructed VFRS staff to report back with an implementation strategy.

Options provided are based on recommendations from the consultant's report and the Fire Chief; acknowledging that an annual review of pace and growth of development, response capacity and service levels, and pending budget approval / funding sources; will have an impact on future prioritization and strategic implementation.

Financial Impact

A number of the consultant's recommendations are at no cost to the City, as they involve updating or annotating existing policies and/or procedures. Any other resources associated with the recommendations will have to be incorporated with both the operating and capital budgets within the life of the Master Fire Plan, subject to annual funding approval.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

While there are no direct implications to the Region of York in regard to fire services, VFRS Fire Administration continues to engage in discussions with York Region Paramedic Services in regards to potential joint infrastructure ventures as potential cost saving measures.

Conclusion

The 2018-2028 MFP Implementation Strategy is intended to be a blueprint for future development of fire protection services in the City of Vaughan. The adoption of the MFP Implementation Strategy will outline the priorities of a growing community as it relates to emergency response and public education.

Attachments

Confidential Attachment: 2018-2028 Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy

Prepared by

Deryn Rizzi, Fire Chief