



Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR **Steven Del Duca**

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) is a group of highly trained and skilled professionals who have answered the call of public service. The members 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 residents 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. The organization 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.

Under the leadership of Fire Chief Andrew Zvanitajs, VFRS maintains its position as one of Ontario's best emergency service organizations.

Every day, the members of VFRS demonstrate courage, compassion and humanity.

Thank you for serving our city with pride and honour.



Steven Del Duca
Mayor of Vaughan



MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER **Nick Spensieri**

On behalf of the City of Vaughan's Senior Leadership Team – Executive, I would like to thank every member of Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) for delivering Service Excellence 24-7.

The results of the 2022 Citizen Survey revealed that VFRS earned an impressive 99 per cent satisfaction rating from Vaughan residents. And it's easy to see why. All members of VFRS show extraordinary

dedication for the incredible work they do to keep our residents, businesses, visitors and communities safe. Every division plays an important role in ensuring everyone has access to vital life-saving information and high-quality emergency services.

With the return of in-person training and fire prevention education in 2022, VFRS's impact on Vaughan only continues to grow with their innovative approaches to protecting

lives, property and the environment from adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies and other dangerous conditions.

Thank you again for your commitment to the community.



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



MESSAGE FROM THE Office of the Fire Chief

In a post-pandemic world, VFRS has returned to business as usual and continues to prove we are a ready, capable and adaptable all-hazards fire service. The return of in-person and in-station tours in 2022 was welcomed by the community and our staff as we opened our doors to resume public education and fire safety visits in all VFRS stations and city neighbourhoods.

Additionally, several large infrastructure projects were finalized as of last year. We have completed design work for the multi-million-dollar refurbishment of Station 7-1, which will commence in late 2023. As well, the design of Station 7-12 is now complete,

and is set to break ground in late 2023. A candidate class of 22 recruits will be added in the coming year to staff engine 7-12.

As a department, we continue to move forward with digitizing our service by eliminating paper paystubs and most daily paper check sheets. Our Training Division continues to leverage the Vector Solutions platform, which allows staff to use a single, digital one-stop-shop for everything training and administration related.

Each day, I am awed by the individual efforts all VFRS members put forth. 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 every day through your outstanding personal performances.

Pride and honour.



Andrew Zvanitajs, Fire Chief
Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service



VFRS MANAGEMENT TEAM



Andrew Zvanitajs
Fire Chief



Grant Moffatt
Deputy Fire Chief



Mike Doyle
Deputy Fire Chief



James Arnold
Deputy Fire Chief



Michael Ing
Assistant Deputy Fire Chief

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 residents 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.
- Residents 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: Michael Gorveatt
 D Platoon: Peter Maynard

DISTRICT CHIEFS

A Platoon: Jim MacDonald
 B Platoon: Jerry Nicosia
 C Platoon: Robert Simmonds
 D Platoon: Jack Benbihy

Training Division

Chief Training Officer: Michelle Moulton

Fire Prevention Division

Chief Fire Prevention Officer:
 Darren Lynch

Mechanical Division

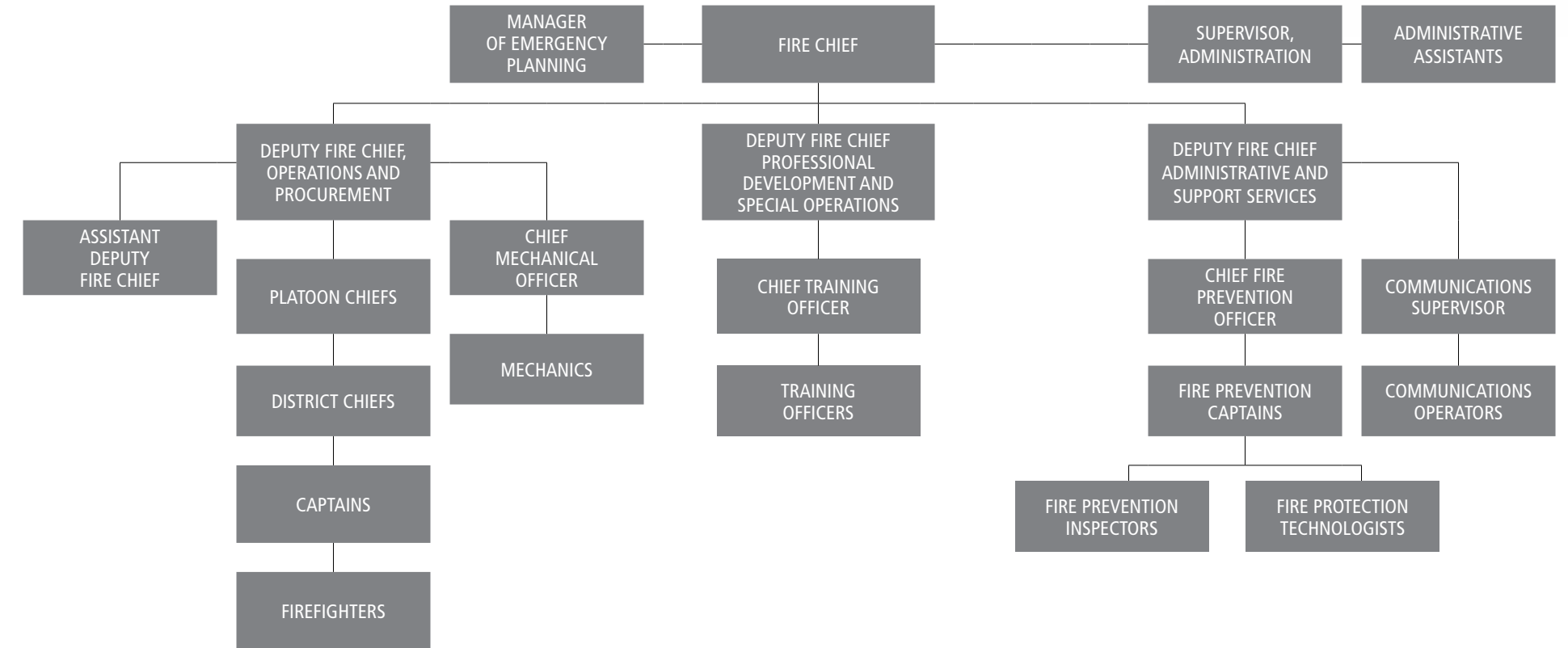
Chief Mechanical Officer: Chris Dennis

Communications Division

Supervisor: Andrea Alexander

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Organizational Structure



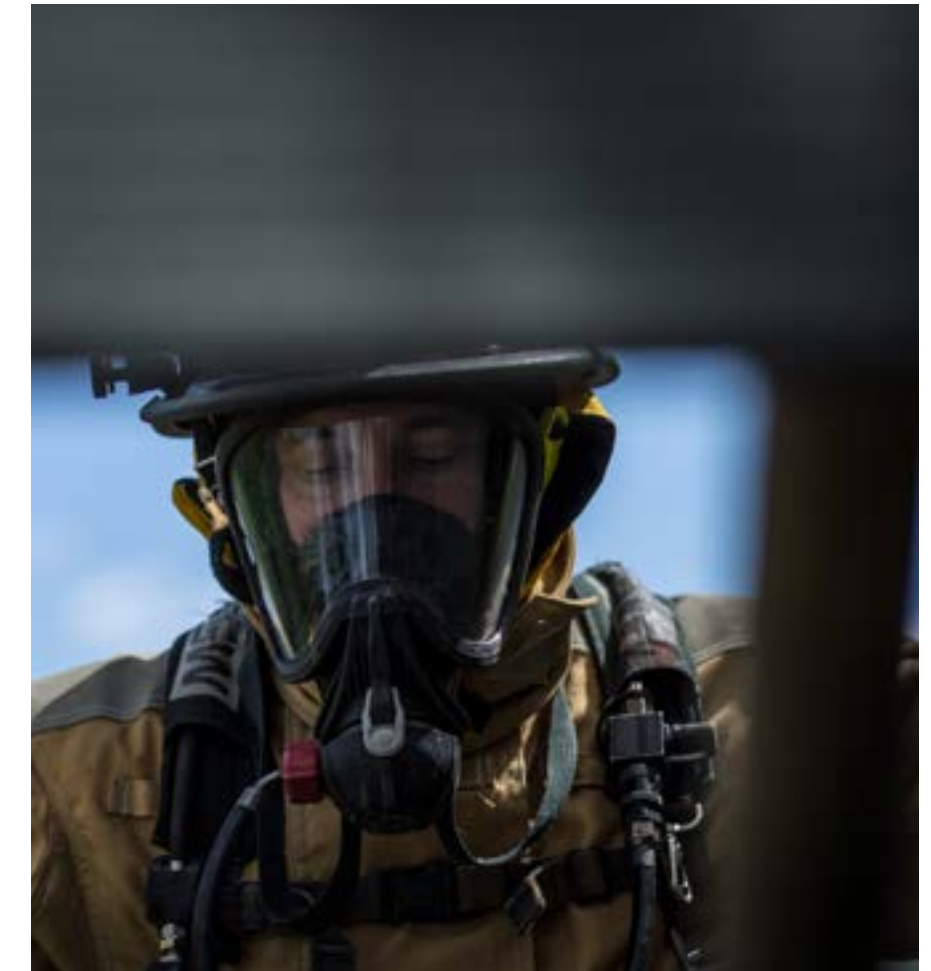


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the accomplishments and the people that make VFRS what it is: one of the most respected fire services in Ontario. In 2022, VFRS responded to more than 12,800 service calls. As the busiest fire department in York Region, we continue to prove the department's mettle each time we attend a call for service, from the operations to prevention division, or anywhere in between.

Thank you to Mayor Steven Del Duca and Members of Council for the out-of-budget-cycle addition of four full-time employees in our Communications Division. These much-needed resources complemented our existing staff and will allow a robust response to the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG-911) program to be implemented later in 2023.

We will also be adding new apparatus in 2023, which were included in the 2022 Budget. Two new engines specifically designed for the urban environment will arrive in 2023 and replace existing units, with a third coming on board for Station 7-12.





OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

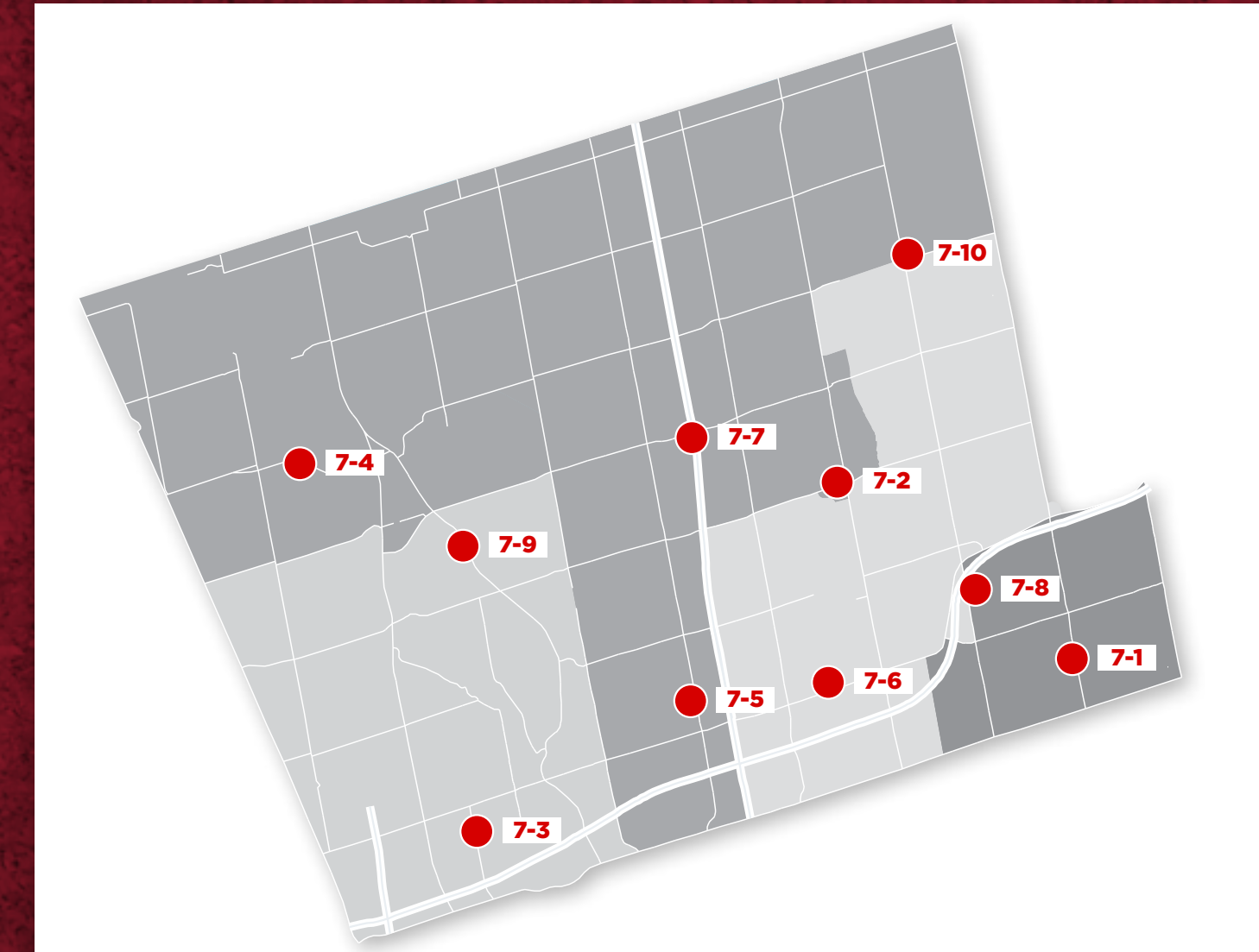
- Implement fire training strategies to support sustainable fire protection and emergency services through recruit training, officer development courses, special operations training in all rescue disciplines, nozzle forward training, and live fire training.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the planning, designing and building of future fire stations to respond to the growing city.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the implementation of NG-911.
- Strengthen the Emergency Management Program to maintain compliance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.



2022-2026 TERM OF COUNCIL SERVICE EXCELLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN



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.

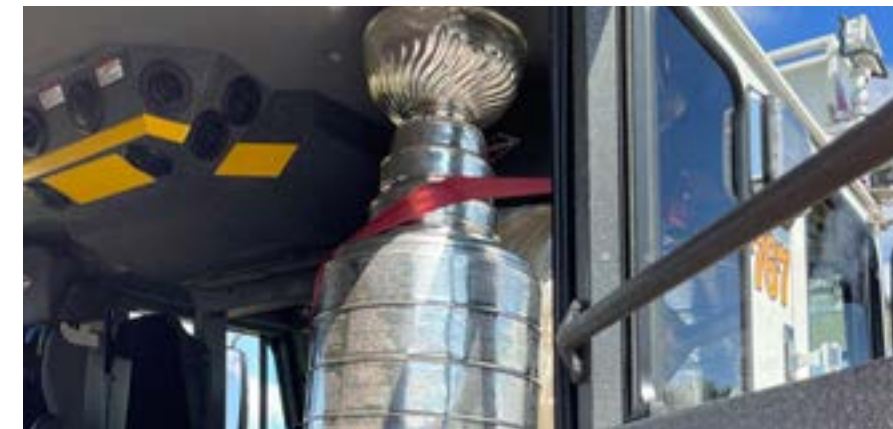


OPERATIONS DIVISION

In 2022, the Operations Division continued to provide residents with the highest possible level of service while responding daily to incidents, including fires, medical emergencies and other calls for assistance.

Highlights include:

- We were honoured by the request to escort Andrew Cogliano and the coveted Stanley Cup to several locations in Vaughan.
- Welcomed 16 recruits that were placed on shift.
- Additional technical rescue equipment was placed in service.
- New equipment was added to augment our vehicle stabilization program.



FIRE LOSS OVER \$500,000

Location	District	Property Type	Dollar Loss
Adrianno Crescent	75	Residential	\$550,000
Coldspring Road	74	Residential	\$1,035,000
Glen Shields Avenue	78	Residential	\$900,000
Harris Crescent	73	Residential	\$700,000
Highway 427	73	Multiple vehicles	\$500,000
Jane Street	77	Entertainment facility	\$500,000
Kipling Avenue	73	Commercial	\$800,000
Major Mackenzie Drive	72	Residential	\$950,050
Major Mackenzie Drive	74	Vehicle	\$605,000
Oliver Lane	72	Residential	\$800,000
Pine Valley Drive	79	Residential	\$800,000
Veneto Drive	73	Residential	\$585,000



MECHANICAL DIVISION

As part of our efforts to adopt greener alternatives under the direction of Chief Zvanitajs, we have begun our journey toward an electrified support fleet. Our first fully electric administration vehicle arrived in 2022 with great reviews. This vehicle is the first of many to follow in our commitment to establish a greener fleet. In 2023, we will see the introduction of two hybrid operation SUVs, two fully electric pick-up trucks and three operation engines with new Eco-idle technology.



A Platoon

On June 17, 2022, A Platoon responded to Woodbridge Foam Corporation for a fire alarm system activation and discovered the warehouse portion was on fire.

Due to the size of the factory and the extent of the fire, eight apparatus were required to battle the fire.

We also requested assistance from our Mechanical Division to refuel the apparatus on scene, and our rehab unit to help rest and rehydrate our personnel.

VFRS used our Command Vehicle 701 to set up our Incident Command Centre for the arriving Chief Officers to set up a unified command to deal with ongoing logistics with police, emergency medical services and the Ministry of the Environment. We also used our air light truck to fill air bottles at the scene.

Our trucks were there for several hours during the overhaul process, which required heavy equipment.

~ Platoon Chief Brian Culp





EMERGENCY PLANNING

The number of department staff doubled in size with the addition of an Emergency Planning Advisor.

The City's emergency declaration for the global COVID-19 pandemic response was terminated on April 27, 2022. After 26 months of actively responding to the pandemic, the Emergency Management Team (EMT) was demobilized and the Emergency Operations Centre closed on May 18, 2023. An evaluation of the response was conducted, and 39 action items were identified to further enhance our emergency management capabilities. By the end of the year, 38 per cent of the action items were fully implemented, with the remaining 62 per cent targeted to be implemented by the end of 2024. A Business Continuity Planning Working Group was established to formalize a governance framework to strengthen the City's operational resiliency.

In-person public education resumed with a booth at the Woodbridge Fall Fair. We partnered with the City's Transportation and Fleet Management Services department to promote the Active School Travel pilot program, winter safety and the importance of being visible when outside. In co-ordination with the Corporate and Strategic Communications department, two public safety videos were

released: [Be Bright at Night](#) and [Safety Tips for your Car](#). Incident management support was provided to the Events team at Canada Day, the Toyota National Soccer Championships and Andrew Wiggins Day.

We supported five local industries in collaboration with fire operations to achieve legislative compliance through field exercises to hazardous materials incidents. Emergency colour code drills were conducted at 28 City facilities to practice managing different situations. Code Black Suspicious Package and Code White Severe Weather exercises were used at different sites to help staff practice response protocols. The annual exercise for the EMT – Perilous Prism – involved 125 City personnel and representatives from external agencies. The team successfully managed a complex scenario involving a mass casualty incident with a hazardous materials release caused by a severe weather event. Exercise Perilous Prism allowed the EMT to practice hybrid operations procedures of in-person and remote members. The team identified 25 action items to enhance our emergency management systems and strengthen resiliency.



TRAINING DIVISION



The Training Division supports all divisions, including Operations Division firefighters by developing and delivering comprehensive training programs that ensure our firefighters continue to deliver the high level of response Vaughan residents expect and rely on.

These training programs consider public safety, including fire suppression skills and tactics, emergency medical services, auto extrication, specialized technical rescues, officer development, and fire apparatus operations and maintenance. At the beginning of 2022, the training division held a three-month recruit class in which we trained 16 new firefighters to become successful members of the Service. We also provided opportunities for our Operations Division to utilize the training tower to continue to rehearse hose handling and suppression techniques and throw various sizes of ground ladders. The Training Division also supported an Acting Captain qualifying routine and an Acting District Chief qualifying routine, which helped add to our cadre of leadership positions.

In 2022, VFRS apparatuses transitioned to a new type of hose and nozzle. As a result, new hose handling and deployment techniques were introduced during the summer and demonstrated to our firefighters during live fire training. Once these basic techniques had been shown to all our firefighters and feedback had been collected,

the groundwork was laid for more changes to come in 2023, which will create increased efficiency and effectiveness when deploying our hose lines.

Special Operations Teams from Station 7-5 assisted the Training Division in ensuring all VFRS crews received on-shift trench rescue awareness equipment familiarization, and instruction on first-arriving considerations on how to prepare for the arrival of the Special Operations Teams. This valuable training puts all crews on the same page, knowing what is expected of them in a trench collapse emergency.

Special Operations Teams from Station 7-2 participated in Open Water Rescue training at Seneca College, where they practiced swim rescues, using the inflatable rescue craft and constructing high-line rope systems to ferry victims and crews. Station 7-2 teams were also fortunate enough to utilize some of the unique features at Canada's Wonderland to conduct high-angle rescue training, focusing on artificial high-directionals, pickoffs and skate-block systems. The multi-day training opportunity culminated in a start-to-finish scenario that combined all our teams' skills.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division consists of 13 full-time communications operators and one communications supervisor with years of service ranging from one to 21.

The communications operators are the first point of contact for city of Vaughan and King Township residents during emergencies. Communications operators are responsible for dispatching the appropriate emergency response to calls and maintaining radio communications throughout an incident. The operators liaise with allied agencies, including police, emergency medical services, utilities and neighbouring fire departments. The division is also responsible for looking after alarms out of service, burn permits and ensuring all radio, telephone and computer-related equipment works efficiently.

In 2022, the Communications Division handled a total of 14,300 emergency calls. Of those calls, 12,836 were for Vaughan and 1,464 were for King Township.

B Platoon

2022 was a year of transitions for B Platoon personnel. We transitioned from virtual indoor training to more hands-on outdoor training, where fire crews could tackle their specialized training like high-angle rescue, hazmat and confined space rescue training. We were also able to get back to our bread-and-butter training like high-rise training, fire pump operator training and water-ice rescue training.

B Platoon also had a significant transition in personnel as some

experienced firefighters, Captains and a Chief Officer retired. However, we were fortunate to welcome several new Captains and Acting Captains to B Platoon who will continue to enhance our leadership and skills.

As we look ahead to 2023, B Platoon will focus on building the skills and leadership of our newest recruits, while also looking to improve the overall efficiencies within the Suppression Division of VFRS.

~ Platoon Chief Jason Salisny





FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION STATISTICS

- Plan examinations: 1,333
- Inspections: 1,132
- Public education events: 77

PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division is committed to providing Vaughan residents with the first two lines of defense: public education and fire inspection code enforcement. Currently, VFRS employs nine fire inspectors, two fire protection technologists/plan examiners, and two fire prevention captains who 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

Hazard House

A new public education program built around our Hazard House simulator was rolled out to 10 elementary schools. The Hazard House is an 80-pound collapsible simulator, and includes a basement with an office, garage and utility room; a kitchen and living room with a fireplace on the ground floor; a bathroom and bedroom on the second floor; and two bedrooms and attic space on the third floor. A stairway connects all four levels, and smoke simulators demonstrate the chimney effect as smoke quickly rises from each floor to the top level. The simulator was set up in either the library or gymnasium, and classes from Grade 1 to Grade 8 cycled through and received training tailored to their age. Feedback from the program has been overwhelmingly positive, and it is now being offered to all elementary schools in the city.

Fire Prevention Week

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week, which ran from Oct. 9 to Oct. 15, was "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." The week was kicked off a day early at the Woodbridge Fall Fair on Oct. 8, where we set up a booth with our Hazard House, trivia wheel and cooking safety simulators. More than 800 attendees received fire safety packages with activity booklets and educational materials to take

home. During the week, our team partnered with all schools from the York Catholic District School Board and York Region District School Board in Vaughan by sending a separate fire safety video each day for schools to deliver to all their students.

The Sleepover with Sparky program was rolled out to Grade 1 students in 72 participating schools, and included a laminated Sparky for each student to take home, along with a fire safety checklist they could complete with their families. Our fire inspection team went door-to-door that week offering to check and test smoke alarms in areas with multiple-family residential buildings. More than 180 home visits were completed. Temporary smoke alarms were installed in homes where the smoke alarms were malfunctioning, expired or missing.

Fire Prevention Videos

Working with the Corporate and Strategic Communications department to build on our fire safety video library, five new videos were created for carbon monoxide alarms, carbon monoxide safety, electrical safety in the home, laundry room fire safety and preventing smoking fires. The videos are available on vaughan.ca/fire and the [City's YouTube channel](#), and are shared periodically through the [City's social media platforms](#).

TOP FIVE IGNITION SOURCES IN STRUCTURAL FIRES

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

Ignition sources are grouped in categories outlined in the Ontario Fire Marshal's Standard Incident Reporting 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 (i.e. fireworks, static electricity, chemical reactions).

2022 FIRE INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Accidental fires	7
Intentionally set fires	0
Undetermined fires	3
Total number of in-depth investigations	10

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

All fires are investigated by either trained firefighters or when additional resources are required, more in-depth investigations can be completed by fire investigators in the Fire Prevention Division. In 2022, Fire Prevention Division investigators worked diligently to safely conduct 10 in-depth investigations related to fires that caused one civilian death and an estimated \$3.4 million in property damage.

REPORTED FIRES BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION

A – Assembly	6
B – Care and detention	0
C – Residential	62
D – Business and personal service	4
E – Mercantile	5
F – Industrial 2	20
Structures/properties not classified	24
Vehicles	74
TOTAL	195





PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The Peer Support Team is a group of peer-elected volunteers that support staff within VFRS. The team consists of members from fire prevention, fire communications and fire suppression. This group of dedicated individuals works to ensure access to various programs and services for our members. Services can be utilized to improve self-care and manage stress throughout a demanding career in public service.

The Peer Support Team continues to evolve to the needs of VFRS, and remains readily available to listen and help connect members with local services as required. Team members have assisted in various incidents ranging from single traumatic calls to staff's personal challenges. As we emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic, our Peer Support Team will seek to recruit new members and engage in meaningful training. The value of the Peer Support Team does not go unrecognized by the VFRS Management Team and Association Leadership. With continued support, the team seeks to expand its knowledge base and continue to build resources to provide to our members and their families.





BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE

BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Shannon Vassos
- Justin Sanderson
- Katie Street
- Mark Ferguson



PRIDE PARADE: Members of Vaughan Professional Fire Fighters Association (VPFFA) attended the vibrant York Region Pride Parade in Newmarket. They marched with a Vaughan Pride firetruck and proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with the 2SLGBTQ+ community.



4-ON-4 CHARITY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT: Our newest recruits were involved in planning our annual 4-on-4 charity hockey tournament at Westwood Arena. With successful t-shirt sales and a great prize raffle, the event **raised \$4,500**, which was donated to our Mackenzie Health pledge.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: For Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Benevolent Committee launched a t-shirt campaign and created an online giving page on Breast Cancer Canada's webpage. **We sold 130 shirts.**

YORK REGION OSHAWA EMERGENCY SERVICES SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT: The Benevolent Committee entered a team into Oshawa Fire's charity slo-pitch tournament, which **raised \$8,000** for Lakeridge Health.

MOVEMBER: The Movember campaign consisted of an online team donation page and a partnership with Kensington Brewery Company. The Benevolent Committee hosted a launch event at Kensington Brewery and created a partnership, in which a portion of the VPFFA branded beer was donated to our Movember campaign. With t-shirt sales, our campaign **raised approximately \$5,000.**



FIELD SUPPORT UNIT AND HONOUR GUARD



Volunteers play an important role in VFRS. Our Field Support Unit and the Honour Guard attended many events and incidents in 2022.

The Field Support Unit attended 14 service calls, including for structure fires and grass/brush fires, assisting the Training Division with the Captains routines, live fire training and firefighter recruit training, and other incidents throughout the year. The Field Support Team assists with the rehabilitation and hydration of the crews on scene of major incidents. We also continue to be 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 nine current staff consisting of off-duty firefighters and communications operators.

The Honour Guard remains available and at the ready when called upon. In 2022, the Honour Guard attended the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Toronto, the Remembrance Day ceremony in Woodbridge, the Inauguration of the 2022-2026 Term of Council and several funeral services. We continue to be available for the Recruit Graduation and various events held at Vaughan City Hall. The Honour Guard consists of approximately 16 current and retired firefighters, captains and communications operators from the department.

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

C Platoon

2022 was an eventful year for C Platoon. We had two senior members retire – Platoon Chief Robert Wilk and Captain Mike St. Clair – and we thank them for their long-standing service.

C Platoon responded to a wide variety of incidents, including structural fires, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous material incidents, specialized rescues and medical emergencies. We continued to train for specialized rescues, such as high-angle rope rescue, ice-water rescue, confined space rescue and hazardous materials incidents.

We also welcomed new recruits and transfer firefighters, and promoted eight individuals to the Acting Captain role. Newly promoted Platoon Chief Michael Gorveatt and District Chief Robert Simmonds will lead the platoon moving forward.

~ Platoon Chief Michael Gorveatt





SERVICE RECOGNITION



FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL RECOGNITION (FEDERAL RECOGNITION)

20 years

- Captain Barry Albert
- Captain Jamie Gray
- Captain Matthew Kenney
- Captain Vincent Lavoie
- Firefighter Danny McBey
- Firefighter Dean McCaw
- Firefighter Conor Murphy
- Firefighter Chris Sapergo
- Firefighter Michael Taylor
- Captain Navjot Tumber
- Firefighter Wesley Weening

25 years

- District Chief Jack Benbihy
- Captain Chris Betzner
- Captain Paul Bionda
- Firefighter Jason Bucknall
- Captain John Crawford
- Captain Esther Duval
- Firefighter Craig Floyd
- Firefighter Terri Kubik
- Firefighter Matthew Malciw
- Firefighter Stephen McDowell
- Captain David McNaught
- District Chief Jerry Nicosia
- Captain Jacqueline Rasenberg
- Platoon Chief Jason Salisny
- Firefighter John Valade
- Captain Tony Watson
- Firefighter Mark Wilson
- Captain Edward Wright
- Fire Chief Andrew Zvanitajs

ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Firefighter Kevin Brown, 30 years
- Platoon Chief Peter Maynard, 35 years
- Deputy Fire Chief Grant Moffatt, 35 years

RETIREMENTS

- Andre Clifton
- Stuart Collins
- Brian Cooke
- Damien Garel
- Joanne Hnatykiw
- John Leggett
- Christopher Oakes
- Vincent Pickett
- Fred Richard
- Mike St. Clair
- Robert Wilk

PROMOTIONS

- Captain Chris Betzner
- Captain Jason Bucknall
- Platoon Chief Michael Gorveatt
- Captain Daniel Guida
- Captain Tim Large
- District Chief Jim MacDonald
- District Chief Christopher Oakes
- Captain Troy Ricci
- District Chief Robert Simmonds
- Captain David Wonfor



LOOKING AHEAD



ANALYTICS

VFRS continues to use data to drive our decision-making. We will use planning and historical information, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data and mapping to target homes at the highest risk and ensure smoke alarms function properly. Also, the department will continue to use GIS to help determine locations for fire stations by focusing on key performance indicators and ensuring response times are optimal.

TECHNOLOGY

VFRS will continue to work with our regional partners to improve communications during calls by revamping the existing 9-1-1 system by completely transitioning to the NG-911 system. The Communications Division will be able to accept calls through voice and text messaging services and must be made available through a system called Real-Time Text (RTT), allowing for a greater conversational flow of communication. Another initiative the department will pursue is using pre-plan software to target locations of higher risks and develop strategies to ensure staff are ready for emergencies at those locations.

D Platoon

With my retirement in early 2023, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of D Platoon for their hard work and dedication to the profession. It has been an honour to work with such a talented and engaged group.

I have always been proud of your innovation and focus on

advancing our profession. It is a great demonstration of your commitment.

We come from a long tradition of service to our community and I am confident in your continued devotion to that level of service and safety.

Work hard. Train harder.

~ Platoon Chief Peter Maynard



2023 BUDGET AND 2024 FINANCIAL PLAN

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

VFRS is mandated to deliver timely and effective mitigation of emergencies, to ensure fire code compliance and to promote the prevention, education and preparedness for emergency situations for the residents of Vaughan.

2021-2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(\$M)	2021 Actuals	2022 Approved Budget	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Plan
REVENUE				
User Fees	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
TOTAL	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
EXPENDITURES				
Labour	52.9	54.6	55.8	56.5
General Maintenance, Repairs, Utilities	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Communications	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Other	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	55.8	57.4	58.7	59.5
Net Operating	54.9	56.5	57.8	58.6
Capital Plan	8.3	7.2	10.0	5.6

2023 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASURES					
Measure	2020	2021	2022	2023 Estimate	2024 Estimate
Inspections	1,230	1,472	1,333	1,500	1,500
Plans Examinations	972	1,117	1,132	1,000	1,000
Fire Education (number of contacts)	3,698	3,507	5,675	5,800	5,800

Note: 2019 data is not comparable as a result of a change of methodology.

It is vital for the City to provide public education, fire investigation services, and ensure buildings and properties are constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable fire and life safety regulations. The three lines of defense for fire protection includes 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 through the community.

2022 KEY RESULTS

- In April, 40 members of VFRS took part in the Officer Development Program. This program provides participants with exposure to the supervisory aspect of being a fire officer.
- On June 10, the next generation of 18 firefighters were officially welcomed into the City. Through a graduation and recognition ceremony.
- VFRS compiled its 2021 Annual Report where VFRS attended more than 11,000 calls for service, closed more than 1,400 inspections and participated in more than 3,500 public education events.
- Continued to implement a City-wide pre-emptive traffic technology pilot in partnership with York Region.



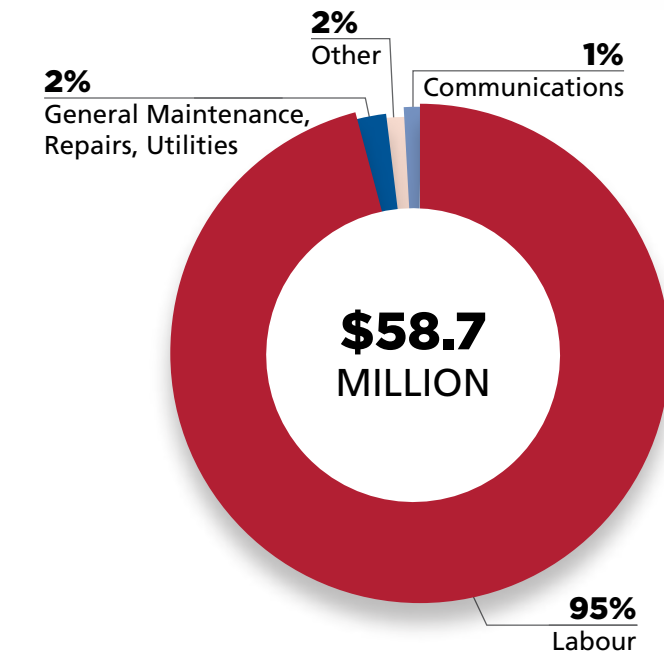
- VFRS and the Corporate and Strategic Communications department have launched a number of public education initiatives throughout the year to promote everything from fire safety at cottages, barbecuing and outdoor fireplaces to having a home escape plan and checking for appliance safety.
- VFRS shared safety tips during Fire Prevention Week. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the week and the theme for 2022 was “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.” VFRS educated the community about the importance of having and practicing a fire escape plan.
- Through feedback from Emergency Management Team members and the program audit conducted by Internal Audit, 39 enhancements to the program were identified. The program has implemented three of the recommendations and 11 are incorporated into standard operating procedures.

2022 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Implement fire training strategies to support sustainable fire protection and emergency services through recruit training, officer development courses, special operations training in all rescue disciplines, nozzle forward training, and live fire training.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the planning, design and build of future fire stations to respond to the growing city.
- Provide VFRS subject matter expertise on the implementation of NG-911.
- Strengthen the Emergency Management Program to maintain compliance with *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

OPERATING SUMMARY

2023 Gross Operating Expenditures



FUNDING TYPE	\$M	%
User Fees	0.9	1.5%
Taxation	57.8	98.5%
TOTAL	58.7	100%

Budget Change: The increase in operating budget in VFRS is driven by labour progressions, two additional resource requests as detailed below, as well as contractual obligations and inflationary pressures.

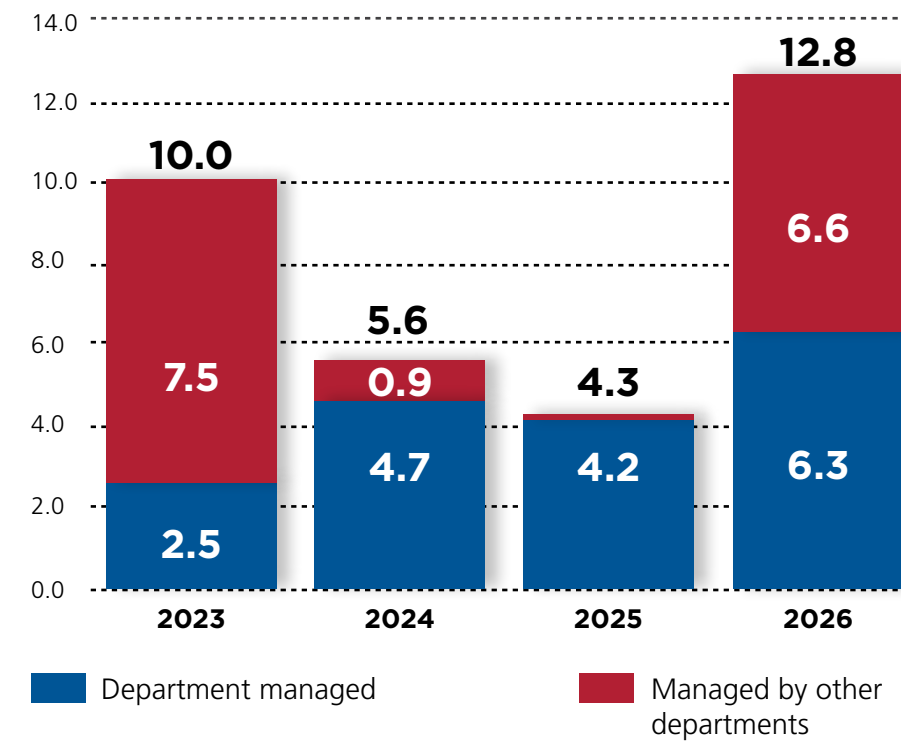
BUDGET CHANGE (\$M)	2021	2022	2023	2024
NET OPERATING BUDGET		53.6	56.5	57.8
Status Quo		2.9	1.1	0.8
Growth		-	0.2	-
New		-	0.1	-
Net Operating Budget	53.6	56.5	57.8	58.6
Budgeted Full Time Equivalents (FTEs)	355	361¹	364	-

¹ The 2022 FTE count includes an increase of four full-time equivalents, as approved by Council on Sept. 13, 2022.

New Requests: There are two new 2023 requests for VFRS. The first relates to two Fire Prevention Inspectors driven by growing demands as well as regulatory changes that require more fire inspections. Secondly, a Clerk Typist is requested, as recommended by the Internal Audit mechanical review. The position will be responsible for tracking and maintaining all inventories, tracking assets and distribution of equipment for the Mechanical Division and Operations Division.

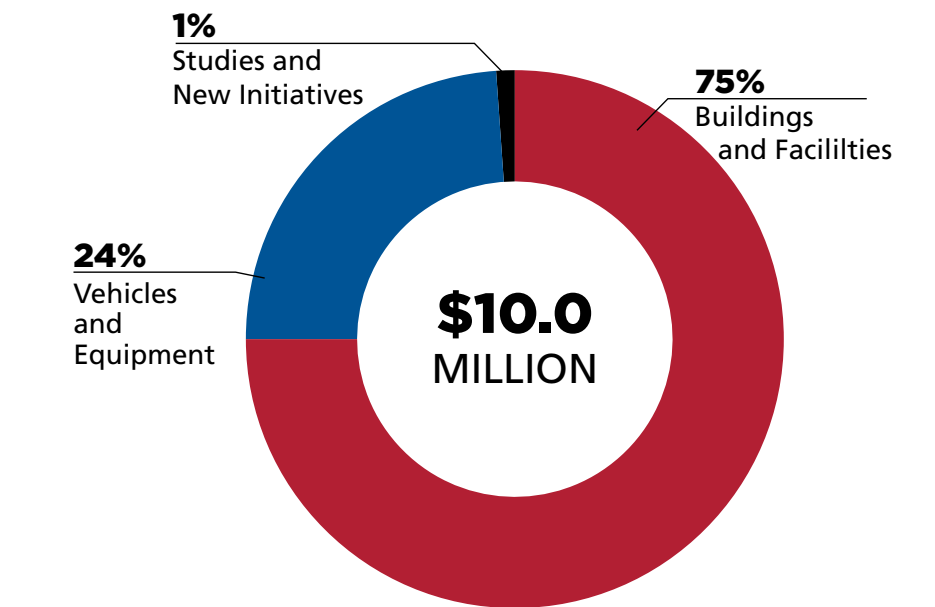
INDEX NUMBER	NEW REQUESTS (\$M)	FTEs	2023
100-1-2023	Two Fire Prevention Inspectors	2.0	0.20
100-2-2023	Clerk Typist	1.0	0.09
TOTAL:		3.0	0.29

**CAPITAL SUMMARY:
2023 BUDGET AND 2024-2026 CAPITAL PLAN (\$M)**



2023 CAPITAL BUDGET

The 2023 capital budget request includes \$2.5 million in capital projects that will be managed and reported on by VFRS. Another \$7.5 million is managed by Facility Management on behalf of VFRS.



2023 BUDGET AND 2024 CAPITAL PLAN INCLUDING OPEN PROJECTS BY STRATEGY MAP (\$M)

SERVICE EXCELLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN	OPEN	2022	2023
Active, Safe and Diverse Communities	15.4	8.5	4.7
City Building	0.4	0.0	-
Environmental Stewardship	4.0	1.5	0.5
Good Governance	0.4	-	-
Operational Performance	-	-	0.3
GRAND TOTAL	20.2	10.0	5.6

2023 BUDGET AND 2024 CAPITAL PLAN BY FUNDING SOURCE (\$M)

FUNDING SOURCE	2023	2024
Development Charges	1.4	0.3
Infrastructure Reserves	3.2	5.1
Debenture	4.6	-
Grant	0.6	0.2
Capital from Taxation	0.1	-
GRAND TOTAL	10.0	5.6





City of Vaughan
Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

vaughan.ca/fire