



**Meeting Date: May 17, 2023**

**Submitted by: Director of Emergency Services – Colin Toth**

**Report No: FS-03-2023**

**Subject: Authorization to Participate - Mutual Aid Plan Bylaw**

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Report FS-03-2023 entitled 'Authorization to Participate - Mutual Aid Plan Bylaw' be received;

AND THAT Council authorizes the continued participation of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre Fire Services in the County of Middlesex Mutual Aid Plan.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to request Council approval of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre's Authorization to Participate - Mutual Aid Plan Bylaw, allowing for continued involvement in the Middlesex County Mutual Aid Plan.

**Background:**

The Ontario Provincial Government introduced the concept of mutual aid many years ago to allow one fire department to request assistance from another. This authorization allows municipalities to respond when requested in the event of an emergency by following an approved Mutual Aid Plan (MAP).

MAPs, as approved by the Ontario Fire Marshal legally allow participating fire departments to request assistance from a neighbouring department under reciprocal circumstances. Such requests normally come after a fire department has substantially depleted or believes it will deplete its emergency resources.

MAPs have demonstrated their value time and time again during emergencies involving large structure fires, hazardous material incidents, as well as significant weather events. These are examples of emergencies that can overwhelm fire department resources and where mutual aid can be called upon to assist in mitigating the incident.

**Analysis:**

In 2022, an updated Mutual Aid Plan was prepared and approved for Middlesex County. As a result, it is necessary to adopt a new by-law to authorize the Municipality of Middlesex Centre Fire Services' continued participation in the Middlesex County Mutual Aid Plan.

The reciprocal relationship is important to provide sustainable service across boundaries aiding each other and forming strong partnerships. Staff are recommending that the Municipality renew and participate in the Middlesex County Mutual Aid Plan.

**Financial Implications:**

None

**Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Municipal Government
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

**Attachments:**

County of Middlesex Mutual Aid Plan

By-law No. XX-2023 – Authorization to Participate - Mutual Aid Plan Bylaw