



Meeting Date: August 16, 2023

Submitted by: Colin Toth, Director of Emergency Services & Fire Chief

Report No: FS-05-2023

Subject: Middlesex Centre Fire Services Live Fire Training

Recommendation:

THAT Report FS-05-2023, re: Middlesex Centre Fire Services (MCFS) Live Fire Training, be received for information.

Purpose:

To report to Council on the recent live fire training evolution undertaken by MCFS utilizing the Provincial Mobile Live Fire Training Unit (MLFTU).

Background:

In 2021, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) shifted educational deployment models throughout Ontario in favour of online, regional training centres and mobile options. One component of the Ontario Fire College (OFC) redesign was to provide cost-effective live fire training opportunities to fire departments. In 2022, the OFM met this mandate with the design and deployment of mobile live fire trailers. These 53-foot tractor/trailer units were presented to fire departments as an onsite option to train firefighters in live fire awareness to ensure certification and firefighting tactics remain current and honed. Currently, there are two MLFTUs deployed across the province – one dedicated to Northern Ontario and one in the South.

On May 16th, 2023, the OFC Academic Manager reached out to MCFS regarding hosting the MLFTU from July 4th to 9th. MCFS accepted the opportunity and organized the training that saw 45 firefighters from MCFS, North Middlesex Fire and Oneida Fire working together – interoperability to accomplish this training goal.

Analysis:

Although MCFS training includes a focus on core firefighting skills, the additional element of experiencing “live fire”- real heat, black-out conditions with simulated smoke are complimentary to our training program. This type of training provides a challenge to our already highly skilled firefighters.

All firefighters involved were able to sharpen various skills such as:

- Hose handling and deployment
- Nozzle and fire stream techniques
- Search and rescue techniques
- Deployment and use of specialty equipment (Thermal Imaging Cameras)
- Breathing apparatus and air management
- Functioning the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT)
- Decontamination and post-incident rehabilitation
- Communications
- Incident Management
- Accountability
- Station familiarization and interoperability

Financial Implications:

Although the live fire trailer is supplied and delivered at no cost to the fire departments across Ontario, various costs must be incurred by the Municipality. These costs are primarily focused on wages and consumables used during the event.

Strategic Plan:

This matter aligns with the following strategic priorities:

- Responsive Municipal Government
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

This report showcases the importance of training and professional development and reinforces a legislative requirement under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act – O.Reg 343/22 “Firefighter Certification”. The report responds to Objective 5.2 – Foster a culture of mutual trust and respect within Council and staff by supporting and encouraging staff training, professional development, and other practices that help encourage and retain effective staff.

Attachments:

A1 FS-05-2023 Middlesex Centre Fire Services Live Fire Training