



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. FIRE-001-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief
MEETING DATE: June 10, 2024
SUBJECT: **2024-2034 Fire Master Plan and Community Risk Assessment**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. FIRE-001-24 **BE RECEIVED** as information;

AND THAT the 2024-2034 Thames Centre Fire Department Fire Master Plan and Community Risk Assessment – Final Drafts **BE APPROVED** as presented.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a final draft of both the 2024-2034 Thames Centre Fire Department's Fire Master Plan and the Community Risk Assessment (the foundation of the Master Plan) for Council's consideration and adoption.

BACKGROUND:

The Community Risk Assessment (CRA) is a document which is legislated by the Province to be created and reviewed annually. From this document, a strategic Fire Master Plan (FMP) document is created and presented based on the findings in the profile of the community's risks. Both documents are designed to guide Council and staff at the strategic level over the next decade, with the CRA being reviewed by the Fire Chief annually.

The Thames Centre Fire Department last generated a FMP in 2010. Serving its purpose, that document assisted in guiding both Council and staff through over a decade of strategic and operational decision making. To remain compliant in a growing community and within legislative changes, a need for an updated and modern plan has arisen. Therefore, in 2023, the newly appointed Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief began a process to seek consultation for an updated FMP as well as the provincially legislated CRA.

In the fall of 2023, after a competitive procurement process, 308 Consulting & Strategies Group Inc. (308CSG) in partnership with Emergency Services Strategy & Solutions Inc., were engaged as consultants to conduct the CRA and FMP.

Data collection for the CRA began immediately with an in-depth analysis of the 9 required profiles, legislated by O. Reg 378/18. During the winter months, interviews, surveys and

consultation with Thames Centre Fire Department staff, the CAO, Council members, as well as internal and external stakeholders took place to gather pertinent information on the FMP development. This process concludes by presenting material gathered and analyzed, culminating in the presentation of the final draft CRA and FMP which include 14 and 17 recommendations respectively for consideration of implementation over the next 10 years.

COMMENTS:

As noted above, the CRA provided the foundation for the creation of the FMP. Consultants worked diligently to provide carefully constructed recommendations that are based on existing community risk profiles, current and historic statistical information of the Municipality's fire services, and Provincial and industry trends and best practices. All recommendations were generated on the overarching platform of public safety while continuing to maintain the high standard of customer service provided by the Thames Centre Fire Department.

Consultants continuously observed a desired need to correlate the continued growth and development of the Thames Centre Fire Department with the modernization, and public safety needs of the communities embedded in the Municipality. Upon Council approval, staff will review and adhere to the guiding strategic recommendations in these documents for the growth and development of the Fire Department.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Any financial implications associated with the adoption of these documents will be brought forward during the annual budget approval process.

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Smart Planning*

Goal: *Make smart planning decisions to grow the community , while maintaining a "hometown feel"*

CONSULTATION:

308 Consulting & Strategies Group Inc.
Emergency Services Strategy & Solutions Inc.

ATTACHMENTS:

Community Risk Assessment (Municipality of Thames Centre) – Final Draft
Thames Centre Fire Master Plan 2024-2034 – Final Draft

Prepared by: Nick Dorken, Director of Fire and Emergency Services/Fire Chief

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer