



Subject: Orangeville Fire Services Model

Department: Administration

Division: CAO

Report #: CAO-2024-012

Meeting Date: 2024-12-16

Recommendations

That report CAO-2024-012, Orangeville Fire Services Model, be received; and

That Council affirm its support for the current Orangeville Fire Services model; and

That this report and motion be circulated to the County of Dufferin and member municipalities.

Overview

There are a number of different models of Fire Service delivery in the county.

The County of Dufferin engaged a consultant who reviewed the topic and recommended consolidation of Fire Services potentially at a county wide level.

Most member municipalities do not support a countywide model but are reviewing smaller consolidation options.

Orangeville, and others, are well served by the current model of Fire Services in Orangeville.

Background

The Town of Orangeville's Fire Service currently serves residents of Orangeville, and has service contracts with the townships of Mono, Amaranth, and East Garafraxa to deliver fire services to portions of the geographies within those township boundaries. It is also noted that Orangeville's Fire Service members are a combination of paid and volunteer members.

In 2020 the County of Dufferin's Service Delivery Review suggested that alternative models of fire service delivery be reviewed particularly related to those governed by Fire Boards with a goal of potentially changing reporting structures and dissolving boards.

On September 12, 2024 Dufferin County Council passed the following resolution:

That the report from the Chief Administrative Officer, dated September 12, 2024, regarding a Fire Protection and Prevention Review, be received ;

And that the Multi-Jurisdictional Fire Prevention and Protection Modernization Plan Report be forwarded to all Dufferin local municipalities and fire boards for their consideration;

And that comments from the local municipalities be brought back to Council by end of year to decide next steps.

The 2024 Dufferin County study recommended a "single operational model" for fire service, either through Orangeville or Dufferin, and identified challenges with existing fire service boards causing inconsistencies.

The Report was shared with Orangeville Council on October 7, 2024.

To date some municipalities have passed resolutions supporting a degree of geographical consolidation, potentially dissolving their Fire Boards and some have taken a wait and see approach. Only one has expressed an interest in specifically continuing a discussion on county wide service.

Analysis/Current Situation

Orangeville Fire Service (OFS) is the largest in the County and most advanced with full time coverage 24/7. Residents are well served. OFS provides service to portions of neighbouring municipalities on a contract basis and participates in Mutual Aid agreements with other fire services supporting each other during periods of high need.

In essence Orangeville is providing a geographical service to a portion of southern Dufferin County. Orangeville has always been receptive to requests from our neighbours and will continue to do so. If approached, staff will consider the request, work with the requester and bring a recommendation to Council. We are not anticipating any in the near future.

The cost of Fire Service is dramatically increasing and participating in a county wide service would have a negative impact on our local taxpayer while potentially also impacting our current service.

Corporate Implications

This report will not generate direct implications. If future actions related to this report will have a corporate impact, a report will be presented to Council for approval, as required.

Conclusion

Orangeville residents and businesses are well served by the current fire services delivery model and staff remain open to requests from other municipalities.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Corporate Capacity

Objective: Collaboration – Lead and support regional and subject-matter alliances

Notice Provisions

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

David Smith
Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed by:

Prepared by:

David Smith,
Chief Administrative Officer