

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) NOVEMBER 12, 2007

CITY OF VAUGHAN, MASTER FIRE PLAN & CITY-WIDE RISK ASSESSMENT

Recommendation

VFRS Senior Command in consultation with the City Manager recommend:

1. That the presentation by Marshall Macklin Monaghan be received.
2. That the attached report on the City of Vaughan Master Fire Plan & City-Wide Risk Assessment dated November 2007, prepared by the consultant, Marshall Macklin Monaghan be received.
3. That staff be directed to report back to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) with an implementation strategy taking into account the Committee's comments.

Economic Impact

The necessary resources associated with the recommendations have been incorporated respectively for consideration in the 2008 Operating Budget and Capital Budget.

Communications Plan

Not applicable

Purpose

To seek Council approval and direction regarding the detailed Master Fire Plan/ City-Wide Risk Assessment related to improvements and future delivery of fire & rescue service in the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

a) Background

In May 2006 Council approved the use of funding from 2005 Ontario Fire Services grant from the Province of Ontario for the preparation of the Master Fire Plan (MFP) by contracting outside consulting service. Subsequently Marshall Macklin Monaghan, consultant, was awarded the contract to undertake the project.

The attached report documents a Master Fire Plan for the City of Vaughan for a period of 10 years. It builds on the Simplified Risk Assessment completed for the City which, as a separate document, assesses the range of risks to life and property and identifies the high-risk use areas within the municipality. Based on the findings of the risk assessment, this MFP summarizes the appropriate fire safety programs and initiatives needed to address the specific needs of the City of Vaughan in order to effectively manage community fire risk.

As with any municipal service function, a master fire plan is needed to provide VFRS with a strategic direction as well as to aid in setting staging and service priorities. This master plan has been prepared in order to address the growth that has occurred and is expected to take place within the municipality over the next decade, along with changes in technology, changes in fire and rescue demands and many other factors, in order to effectively minimize insurance costs to the City, its businesses and residents. The MFP also intends to maintain and improve safety to Vaughan's citizens, by determining which programs are needed to ensure an efficient delivery of fire protection service to the municipality.

While the primary focus of this master plan has been on the 10-year horizon, the longer term has also been taken into consideration. Over the initial 10-year timeframe, development will be located primarily within the limits of the existing and planned development areas as defined by the OPA No. 600 amendment area and potentially within the Regional OPA No. 19 amendment area (Vaughan Enterprise Zone) and the OPA No. 637 amendment area (Vaughan-400 North Employment Area).

The MFP recognizes the implications of the province's *Places to Grow* plan for new greenfield development and intensification to the year 2031. It recommends that the master plan be reviewed and updated at 5-year intervals to ensure that the changing circumstances will be assessed and the plan updated as required. By the end of the initial 5-year period the Regional and City Growth Management exercises will have been completed and the new official plans adopted. They will provide the vision for the City's land use development and infrastructure needs that the 5-year review of the MFP will need to respond to.

b) Purpose of the Master Fire Plan

The creation of the Master Fire Plan conforms with the requirements of the Ontario Fire Marshal's (OFM) "Shaping Fire-Safe Communities" program. The purpose of the OFM program is summarized below:

- to encourage informed and objective decision-making on the provision of municipal fire protection services according to local needs and circumstances
- to provide a systematic, community-based process to promote the optimization of fire protection services, namely through **master fire planning**
- to assist municipal officials, fire chiefs and other fire officials in understanding and fulfilling the requirements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997 that was proclaimed into law on October 29, 1997. The FPPA is the framework for municipalities in the planning and provision of protection from fire, in the most efficient manner.

The Master Fire Plan is a strategic directive for fire protection that addresses local needs and circumstances and provides benchmarks for future planning. The Master Fire Plan is a component of the Ontario Fire Marshal's *Optimizing Public Fire Safety Model* and the master plan process should generate outcome as follows:

- a stated council commitment sanctioning implementation of the Master Fire Plan with appropriate time lines
- identification of council approved fire protection options and the operational impacts of the policy decisions on providing fire and rescue services
- a stated council commitment to monitor, evaluate and revise the Master Fire Plan to improve municipal fire safety continuously

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have not been approved.

This report is also consistent with the revised draft Vaughan Vision 2020 Corporate Strategic Map:

A-1, Pursue excellence in service delivery;
A-2, Enhance and ensure community safety, health & wellness;
B-1, value and encourage highly motivated workplace;
B-2, Attract, retain & promote skilled staff; and
C-1, Demonstrate leadership and promote effective governance; and
C-5, Plan and manage growth & economic vitality.

Regional Implications

While no direct implications to the Region in regard to fire services, the Region may wish to give consideration to the Master Fire Plan as it relates to future provision of emergency medical services and joint partnerships. Upon final approval of the Master Fire Plan report, a copy will be provided to the Region.

Conclusion

The MFP is intended to be a blueprint for future development of fire protection services in the City of Vaughan. The implementation of the Master Fire Plan will maintain the current level of emergency response; improve program delivery in a number of identified areas; advance 'operational readiness of VFRS in whole; and overall is reflective of growth that has already been approved.

Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service was very recently audited by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, as required under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act. Development of a Master Fire Plan is a key requirement of the audit and as a direct result of Council's foresight in directing that a Master Fire Plan be developed, the City of Vaughan will be awarded the OFM certificate of Compliance in the very near future.

Attachments

Master Fire Plan & City-Wide Risk Assessment. (Confidential – Members of Council only)

Report prepared by:

Fire Chief G.R. Senay

Respectfully submitted,

G.R. Senay
Fire Chief