

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) FEBRUARY 23, 2009

MASTER FIRE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Referred Item (Item 2, CW(WS) Report No. 5)

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) at its meeting of February 2, 2009, approved in part:

That Clause 2 of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Fire Chief and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command, dated February 2, 2009, be approved;

That Clause 1 of the recommendation contained in the following report of the Fire Chief and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command, dated February 2, 2009, be referred to a future Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting; and

That staff report on the ratio of fire suppression staff to population in Markham, Richmond Hill, Brampton and Mississauga.

Report of the Fire Chief and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command, dated February 2, 2009

Recommendation

The Fire Chief and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command, in consultation with the City Manager, recommend:

1. That the attached Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy be received with implementation subject to inclusion of the necessary resources in both the operating and capital budgets and council approval of the funding sources over the life of the MFP; and
2. That the information related to the need for fire services in the north east, including land acquisition and construction of a north east fire station 7-10, the deployment of the 30m aerial unit at fire station 7-9, and a plan and location for a new fire station in the west, be received.

Economic Impact

- Fire Station 7-10, land cost of \$375,000 was approved in 2008. A new Fire Engine apparatus will cost about \$600,000; and the fire station design cost will be about \$110,210. The costs for the new engine and the design expenses have been included in the 2009 capital budget submission. (The land cost/per the Development Charge Bylaw).
- Fire Station 7-10 construction cost of \$1,860,123, the hiring cost of \$778,192 for the first cohort of 10 firefighters in January 2010, and the recruiting cost of \$453,945 for the second cohort of 10 firefighters in June 2010 will be submitted as directed. (The construction cost/per the Development Charge Bylaw).
- Land cost for relocating Fire Station 7-3 further west is about \$660,000. The design cost of Fire Station 7-3 is estimated to be \$110,210. The construction cost for Fire Station 7-3 will be about \$1,860,123. All these costs will require approval by Council. Anticipated construction of the new Station 7-3 will be 2011. (The land and construction cost/per the Development Charge Bylaw).

- Staffing Fire Station 7-3 with 20 new firefighters in January 2009 will cost \$1,556,384. This amount is pending approval by the Budget Committee in 2009.

Communications Plan

Not applicable

Purpose

This report is completed at the direction of the Budget Committee meeting of December 4, 2008 in relation to the four topics presented above. Council, at its meeting of December 8, 2008, adopted Budget Committee's recommendations as follows without amendment:

1. **That the Fire Department address the need for fire services in the north east and provide a report that includes the land and construction of a north east station;**
2. **That the Fire Department provide a report on the deployment of the aerial unit at Station 7-9;**
3. **That staff report on the plan and location for a new fire station in the west;**
4. **That a report be brought forward to the February 2, 2009 Committee of the Whole (Working Session) meeting on the implementation of the Master Fire Plan in context with the deployment of new hires**

Background - Analysis and Options

(1) The Need for Fire Services in the North East including Land Acquisition and Construction of a new North-east Fire Station 7-10

In order to provide fire protection consistent with VFRS response standards, to the development in the north east quadrant, the Response Optimization Analysis – a 4-minute fire travel time (MFP) – recommends the construction and staffing of Fire Station 7-10 in the area of Dufferin Street and Teston Road.

The new Fire Station 7-10 as recommended by the MFP will serve the Vaughan 400 North Employment Area (Keele Street and Teston Road), the commercial development, pedestrian shopping areas along Major Mackenzie Drive and Dufferin Street and, the residential growth in the north-east quadrant which comprises of a variety of single detached, semi-detached, townhouses and multiple storey units and a few parcels of land north of Major Mackenzie Drive which propose high rise and mixed units.

Maintaining a pro-active approach in the north-east quadrant will continue to be the challenge for VFRS, as the municipality continues to grow, recognizing heavy traffic patterns in the east of Keele Street, starting from Major Mackenzie Drive to Dufferin Street and extending to the north of Bathurst Street.

Subject to Council direction and budget approvals VFRS recommends the following:

- Design the new fire station in 2010 (\$110,210)
- Build fire station in 2010 (\$1,860,123)
- Spec & Order a fire pumper (engine) apparatus in 2009 (\$600,000)
- Hire a cohort of 10 firefighters in January 2010 (\$778,192)
- Hire a cohort of 10 firefighters June 2010 (\$453,945)

Land acquisition related to Fire Station 7-10 is the subject of the attached confidential memo.

(2) The Deployment of the 30M Aerial Unit at Fire Station 7-9 (Islington south of Major Mackenzie)

One of the most critical factors in the provision of fire suppression services is the geographical area that can be covered by fire vehicles within acceptable response times. This is one of the primary criteria in determining whether additional stations or crews are required and whether any existing stations should be relocated. If there are a substantial number of well-populated and high-risk areas which are not covered within the acceptable response times, then additional stations or crews may be required. As such the deployment of the 30M Aerial at Fire Station 7-9 fails to provide the acceptable response times for the south west areas of the Woodbridge Community. The anticipated fire vehicle travel-time from Fire Station 7-9 to Vaughan Enterprise Zone and the Woodbridge Employment Areas will be in excess of 10 minutes, not the targeted response times of 4-minute travel time.

Growth has continued in the south west portion of the city at a steady pace resulting in increased demands for emergency services over the past 4-5 years. In 2008 the Fire Operation Division responded to over 10,787 incidents, with the majority of emergency responses on the west side of the city occurring south of Rutherford Road.

Of particular importance in the southwest is the ability to respond effectively and efficiently with appropriate apparatus to multi-storey buildings (3-storey and greater), senior residences, nursing homes, large occupancy buildings, large square footage commercial, industrial structures, malls, plazas, and estate residential dwellings.

Station # 73 (at Woodbridge Avenue and Kipling) is also responsible for the efficient, effective response of VFRS Hazardous Materials Unit to Hazardous Materials and CBRN incidents city-wide. Given that the Haz Mat unit is unstaffed, one of the 4 firefighters assigned to Engine 731 must drop back to operate the vehicle and ensure effective response of the Haz Mat Response Unit with Engine 731 to the scene when it is required. The additional crew assignment to Station # 73 will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of VFRS city-wide Hazardous Materials response capabilities.

Although the primary response area for the 30M Aerial (736) is the heavily built-up area in south Woodbridge, it will also augment the response capability in the North West area of the city. The northwest response area of the city is presently supported by Station # 74 (Kleinburg Volunteer) and will be enhanced in the near term with the conversion and replacement of Station # 74 to a full time staffed fire station (projected for 2016) as service demands dictate.

Strategically and logistically, the 30M Aerial is designed and equipped to perform initial fire attack, High/Low Level Rescue, Vehicle Extrication, deliver large volume water supply to an elevated master stream as well as respond in a timely manner to the large variety of emergency situations that occur regularly in this busy part of the city. Given all of the above, deployment of the Aerial Unit and crew to Station # 79 is not recommended by VFRS Senior Command.

The deployment of 20 firefighting staff and 30M Aerial in the south west area of the city is consistent with Council's initiatives - Vaughan Vision 2020, a strategic direction, "Looking to Our Future" in the interest and awareness of how important it is to Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness as well as Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery.

(3) Plan and Location for a New Fire Station in the West

With a view to optimizing fire and emergency coverage in the west of the city, the MFP recommended the relocation of two fire stations as follows.

- Woodbridge Fire Station 7-3 further west: 2010-2011
- Kleinburg Fire Station 7-4 along Huntington Road: north of Major Mackenzie Drive 2010-2016

The principal rationale of relocating Woodbridge Fire Station 7-3 further west is attributed to the continued growth and expansion of the Woodbridge Core Area, including Woodbridge Employment Areas as well as the Vaughan Enterprise Zone.

The critical factors regarding the location and physical condition of Station 7-3 includes,

- Fire Station 7-3 is located in an area that is heavily congested with vehicular traffic, affecting response time
- Access to the west is limited
- Fire Station 7-3 is staffed for an Engine only but bears responsibility for city wide Hazardous Materials Response.
- Structurally and physically, the existing Fire Station 7-3 is reaching its serviceable life as a fire station and is too small to house projected operations over the long term.
- Expansion/renovation of the present station is not considered a viable option.

Notwithstanding the above, the identification of a relocation to the Martingrove/Hwy#7 area would provide a more efficient response capability and not compromise the existing fire service being provided at the present location.

Replacing Station # 73 with a 3-bay, double depth station in the Martin Grove and Highway # 7 area is recommended by the MFP and supported by VFRS Senior Command. Discussions are underway with Real Estate with a view to securing land in 2010 pending approval of Council.

(4) Implementation of the Master Fire Plan (MFP)

The Master Fire Plan (MFP) focuses on 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, the Implementation Strategy of the MFP is needed to provide VFRS with a strategic direction as well as to aid in setting staging and service priorities to 2020. The primary focus of the implementation strategy is on the next five years.

The implementation strategy 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 residents, businesses and industries. The implementation strategy 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 community.

The implementation strategy recognizes the implications of the province's *Places to Grow* plan for new greenfield development and intensification to the year 2031. While the primary focus of the implementation strategy has been on the immediate 5-year needs and the longer term has also been taken into consideration. The need and demand for fire and rescue service is anticipated within the limits of the existing and planned development areas as defined by the OPA 600 amendment areas and potentially within the Regional OPA 19 amendment area (Vaughan Enterprise Zone), the OPA 637 amendment area (Vaughan-400 North Employment Area), the Woodbridge Core Area, the Vaughan Corporate Centre, and the Kleinburg-Nashville Community Plan.

The tables below present the summarized implementation strategies from 2008 to 2014, considering the fact that the MFP should be updated in 2014. In 2007, the consultants contracted to prepare the MFP recommended that the MFP should be reviewed on a 5-year basis and updated as necessary to reflect VFRS vision, environmental changes as well as the noted growth of the city.

Table 1 **2008**

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Acquire land for Station 7-10		\$375,000	
2	Hire a Fire Prevention Inspector for Public Education, July 2008	Complete		
3	Hire a Training Officer – July, 2008	Complete		
4	Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System		\$600,000	
5	Move Communications Division to Joint Operations Centre	Complete		
6	Move Administration and Fire Prevention Divisions to the Joint Operating Centre	Complete		
Total:			\$975,000	0

Table 2 **2009**

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Hire 20 Firefighters to staff Aerial 736 in January 2009	\$1,556,384		20
2	Acquire Fire Apparatus - Station 7-10		\$600,000	
3	Computers in Fire Trucks, Automatic Vehicle Locator, Data Links		\$600,000	
4	AMANDA Computer Records System for Fire Prevention Division		\$78,000	
5	Hire Stores Quartermaster	\$72,577		1
6	Purchase Enterprise Asset Management Program for Mechanical Division		\$46,000	
7	Hire Fire Prevention Inspector for Field Inspections	\$90,200		1
8	Hire two Communications Operators	\$145,360		2
9	Hire four District Chiefs	\$520,752		4
10	Implement a Water Supply Strategy		\$103,000	
Total:		\$2,385,273	\$1,427,000	28

Table 3

2010

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Acquire land for Station 7-3 (Relocate)		\$660,000	
2	Acquire land for Station 7-11		\$660,000	
3	Acquire land for Station 7-4 (relocate)		\$660,000	
4	Design Station 7-10 (LEED)		\$110,210	
5	Build Fire Station 7-10 (LEED)		\$1,860,123	
6	Hire First Cohort of 10 Firefighters in January 2010 - staffing Station 7-10	\$778,192		10
7	Design Station 7-3, relocate (LEED)		\$110,210	
8	Hire second Fire Prevention Inspector for Public Education	\$90,200		1
9	Hire Second Cohort of 10 Firefighters in June 2010 - staffing Station 7-10	\$453,945		10
10	Increase Training Classroom Space - J.O.C.		\$51,500	
11	Hire Fire Prevention Captain for Public Education	\$160,523		1
12	Develop Fire Prevention Public Education Website		\$10,300	
Total:		\$1,482,860	\$4,122,343	22

Table 4

2011

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Acquire land for a Training Tower		\$1,030,000	
2	Build Fire Station 7-3 (relocate)		\$1,860,123	
3	Design Training Tower		\$110,210	
4	Hire a fourth Training Officer	\$126,005		1
5	Hire a second Fire Prevention Captain, Inspection	\$160,523		1
6	Hire a fourth Fire Department Mechanic	\$96,680		1
7	Acquire Apparatus Engine 751, Station 7-5		\$600,000	
Total:		\$383,208	\$3,600,333	3

Table 5 **2012**

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Build a Training Tower		\$5,150,000	
2	Hire 20 Firefighters staffing Engine 751	\$1,556,384		20
3	Hire Administrative Officer – Assistant to the Fire Chief	\$160,523		1
4	Acquire Air Supply Unit		\$300,000	
Total:		\$1,716,907	\$5,450,000	21

Table 6 **2013**

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Engine 781 – Acquire Pumper for Station 7-8		\$600,000	
Total:			\$600,000	

Table 7 **2014**

	Project	Operating Budget	Capital Budget	Staff FTEs
1	Hire 20 Firefighters to staff Fire Station 7-8 with new Pumper	\$1,556,384		20
2	Hire a Fire Prevention Inspector	\$90,200		1
3	Hire a Chief Communications Officer	\$135,491		1
4	Hire 4 Communications Shift Supervisors	\$350,260		4
5	Hire 4 additional District Chiefs	\$520,752		4
Total:		\$2,653,087		30

As such, anticipated growth for the Woodbridge Core Area, Vaughan Corporate Centre, and Kleinburg-Nashville Community are integrated with the implementation strategies to 2014.

It is recommended that the implementation strategy of the MFP be reviewed and updated in 2014 benchmarking against revisions made in the revised New Vaughan Official Plan, concerning population density, type of buildings as well as location of commercial and industrial development.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council – Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery and Enhance Community Safety, Health & Wellness – however, the necessary resources have not been allocated and approved.

Regional Implications

Not applicable

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Fire Chief and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Senior Command with approval from Council, recommend the design and construction of Fire Station 7-10 in 2010, recruitment of first cohort of 10 firefighters in January 2010 and recruitment of second cohort of 10 firefighters in June 2010 to staff station 7-10. In January 2009, hire and deploy 20 firefighters at Fire Station 7-3. Also, plan and relocate Fire Station 7-3 further west and deploy the 30M Aerial Unit at Fire Station 7-3.

Attachments

1. The VFRS Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy 2008-2020 (Members of Council Only)
2. Confidential Memo (Members of Council Only)

Report prepared by:

Fire Chief G.R. Senay