

## **PRIORITIES AND KEY INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 5, 2011**

### **MASTER FIRE PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

#### **Recommendation**

VFRS Senior Command, in consultation with the City Manager, recommend that this report and presentation of The Master Fire Plan and Implementation Strategy Update be received for information purposes only.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

Not applicable

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact resulting from the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee receiving this report for information purposes.

#### **Communications Plan**

Not Applicable.

#### **Purpose**

This report is being submitted in order to provide the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee with an overview of the Master Fire Plan/Implementation Strategy, report on progress to date as well as identifying short and long term initiatives for the provision of Emergency Response 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 services. Subsequently Marshall Macklin Monaghan, consultant, was awarded the contract to undertake the project.

The 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 summarized 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 was needed to provide VFRS with a strategic direction as well as to aid in setting staging and service priorities. The master plan was prepared in order to address the growth that had 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 intended to maintain and improve safety to Vaughan's citizens, by determining which programs were 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. The MFP recognized the implications of the province's *Places to Grow* plan for new greenfield development and intensification to the year 2031. It was recommended that the master plan be reviewed and updated at 5-year intervals to ensure that the changing circumstances would be assessed and the plan be updated as required. The MFP contemplated that by the end of the initial 5-year period, the Regional and City Growth Management exercises would have been completed and the new official plans adopted. They would provide the vision for the City's land use development and infrastructure needs that the 5-year review of the MFP would 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

#### **c) Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy**

The Master Fire Plan Implementation Strategy was presented to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) on February 2, 2009, and again on February 24, 2009 and was adopted by Council on March 23, 2009.

#### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council – Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery, Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health & Wellness and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

#### **Regional Implications**

Not Applicable.

**Conclusion**

This report and presentation is submitted in order to provide the Priorities and Key Initiatives Committee with an overview of the Master Fire Plan/Implementation Strategy, report on progress to date as well as identifying short and long term initiatives for the provision of Emergency Response Service in the City of Vaughan.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report prepared by:**

Fire Chief G.R. Senay

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief G.R. Senay