



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 12, 2024

Subject: SRCAO.2024.01 – Fire Agreements

Report from: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendices: Appendix A – Fire Service Agreements; Brockton, Chatsworth, Hanover, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, South Bruce Peninsula

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Receives the information related to the current Automatic Aid Agreements/Fire Service Agreements with Arran-Elderslie Fire & Emergency Services Department; and
2. Support staff to commence a formal review of all Automatic Aid Agreements/Fire Service Agreements and provide Council with an update on the agreement negotiations and modifications if required.

Report Summary

In accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, Arran-Elderslie's Fire and Emergency Services Department has long standing automatic aid agreements or fire service agreements with neighbouring municipalities. Providing and/or receiving fire protection services to areas of Brockton, Chatsworth, Hanover, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores and South Bruce Peninsula. Some of these agreements are now expired and require re-negotiation. Staff will commence a review of these agreements and will provide a further update to Council on the status of the review.

Background

Staff have been requested to bring to Council a report outlining the Fire Service Agreements that are in place between Arran-Elderslie Fire and Emergency Services and surrounding municipalities.

In order to ensure that these agreements are up to date and currently reflect the services being provided staff will commence a review of the expired agreements.

Analysis

Brockton – By-law 58-2016 – October 11, 2016 Automatic Aid Agreement for a 5 year term (2021) with an overholding provision to allow automatic annual renewal. Fire Coverage Area outlined on Schedule A of the Agreement. Negotiated payment of \$53,139.32 in 2016 with an annual CPI increase each year. Billed January 1 and July 1 of each year.

Chatsworth – Bylaw 12-2013 – March 11, 2013 for Joint Fire Agreement and Management of a Fire Board. Agreement was for a period of one year (2014) and would remain in place until another agreement is entered into or one party commences termination of the agreement. Specific coverage area outlined on Schedule D of the Agreement Annual Operating and Capital Budgets to be presented by March 31st each year. Chatsworth and Arran-Elderslie have proportionate share of ownership of assets. Specific expenditures are outlined in the Agreement. Billing of expenditures to Chatsworth are done March 31, June 31, Sept 30, Dec 31st.

Hanover – September 28, 2020, Fire Protection Agreement. The Agreement came into effect on December 1, 2020 and was to remain in effect until December 1, 2025. Written notice to renew the Agreement for an additional 5 years is permitted by request in writing to do so. Hanover provides technical rescue services to Arran-Elderslie in accordance with Schedule B of the agreement in the areas of water rescue, rope rescue, etc. Fees charged are based on fee for services as per MTO rates. Monthly updates on calls attended are to be provided to Arran-Elderslie.

Kincardine - By-law 54-2017, Fire Protection Agreement, dated September 27, 2017. The Agreement was for a period of five years (2022) and then automatically renewed on a year to year basis until such time as the Agreement is require to be revoked. The fire protection area is specifically outlined on Schedule A of the Agreement. The annual payment was \$51,400 per year subject to CPI increase and billed on January 1st and July 1st each year.

Saugeen Shores – By-law 43-10, Mutual Aid Agreement, dated September 7, 2010 to take effect on January 1, 2011. The Agreement was for five years (2016) with an automatic renewal from year to year unless otherwise terminated. Specific fire coverage area identified on Schedule A of the Agreement.

Invoicing Saugeen Shores May 31st and November 30th each year an annual service retainer of \$100 per property roll number. This fee was to be increased each year based on CPI. In addition, payment for each call made subject to MTO rates was also to be paid.

South Bruce Peninsula – By-law 938-89 Fire Service Agreement with former Township of Amabel, dated June 1, 1989 and commenced August 1, 1989. The Agreement was to terminate on December 31, 1989 and shall continue on an annual basis until such time as it is terminated. Payment was set at \$300 per hour per fire services and a \$1,500 per year stand-by charge per year. All fees were to escalate annually by 5% each year.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.4 Leading Financial Management

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

No financial impacts to the Operating and/or Capital Budget for the purposes of this report.

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer