



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: November 25, 2024

Subject: SRFIRE.24.05 Bruce County Emergency Management Support

Report from: Steve Tiernan, Fire Chief

Appendices: None

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Receives for information SRFIRE.24.05 regarding Bruce County Emergency Management Support; and
2. Approves entering into an agreement with Bruce County to support Arran-Elderslie's Emergency Management program in 2025,

Report Summary

The County of Bruce will be making a presentation to provide information on an opportunity for the County to assist in emergency management training and ensuring our Emergency Management Program meets current regulations and compliance.

Background

All Ontario Municipalities are governed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA). Under this Act, the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie has an emergency program that consists of:

- An emergency plan
- Training programs and exercises about emergency preparedness
- Public Education materials on emergency preparedness

- Additional requirements related to standards for emergency programs.

The world of Emergency Management is ever changing and becoming more complex. The Province is now working on building a more robust program for Ontario. With this, comes more compliance regulations, staff training, additional meetings as well as numerous other initiatives that the Province is rolling out.

Staff have invited Krista Miller, Community Emergency Management Specialist with the County of Bruce to provide information to Council on how the County could assist the Municipality in emergency management training and ensuring our Emergency Management Program meets current regulations and compliance.

Analysis

Since 2022, Chief Tiernan has been responsible for the emergency program conducting annual exercises, arranging and attending Emergency Management meetings throughout Bruce and Grey Counties, and completing all necessary documentation to meet annual compliance on behalf of the Municipality.

The Municipality of Brockton has retained the services of the County of Bruce in assisting with their Emergency Management Program, as well as assisting in the creation of their new Emergency Response Plan. Brockton Fire Chief Wells has indicated how using Bruce County allowed a more streamline approach for annual compliance and training.

There are advantages of having neighboring Municipalities using Bruce County for Emergency Management support as well as having the same template for their respective Emergency Response Plans in the event of a large incident spanning across multiple Municipalities. Similar to Mutual Aid in the Fire Service, having CEMC's using the same processes, documents and Emergency Response plans allows Municipalities to work together flawlessly in the event of a large-scale incident.

Staff reviewed the support offered from the County of Bruce and recommend the Fire Chief continue to maintain full responsibility for Emergency Management as the Primary CEMC AND enter into an agreement with the County to provide

- Emergency Management Training for members of the Emergency Control Group, including introduction to Emergency Management, Familiarization with the Emergency Operation Centre, exercises and IMS100.
- Coordinate large Emergency Management exercise with Arran-Elderslie and other participating Municipalities and the County
- Assist with updating Arran-Elderslie's HIRA and Critical Infrastructure list
- Assist in yearly compliance reporting
- Assist in the preparation of Emergency Response Plan

- Assist in updating Emergency Operations Centre SOP
- Discuss opportunity for County to be an alternate CEMC

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.6 Modernizing Services

Fire Master Plan 17.1

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

Should Council support entering into an agreement, staff can discuss in more detail the costs associated. The fee would be brought forward during 2025 budget deliberations

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer