



TO: GENERAL COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: FIRE DISPATCH SERVICE AGREEMENTS – AUTHORITY TO ADD COMPLEMENT

WARD: ALL

PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT: C. MAINPRIZE, FIRE CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

SUBMITTED BY: C. MAINPRIZE, FIRE CHIEF

GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RECOMMENDED MOTION

1. That further to motion 08-G-151, authority be granted to amend the number of approved complement positions to provide the resources required to execute future Fire Dispatch Service Agreements, where it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Fire Chief, the Director of Finance, and the General Manager of Community and Corporate Services that any additional staff complement costs will be recovered, and the new service contract will create a sustainable revenue source.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

Report Overview

2. On April 7, 2008 City Council adopted motion 08-G-151 providing the Mayor and City Clerk in consultation with the Fire Chief, the delegated authority to execute Fire Dispatch Service Agreements to provide dispatch services to other municipalities.
3. The purpose of this staff report is to provide the authority to amend the approved staff complement as required to execute additional service contacts, where it can be demonstrated the business model supports entering into new contracts.

Background

4. Barrie Fire and Emergency Service has provided fire dispatch services to other municipalities since 1984. Our communications branch has grown to its current customer base of 19 municipalities and is the predominate fire dispatch centre in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka.
5. The Barrie Fire and Emergency Service Communications branch's primary and backup communications facilities meet or exceed the industry standard, NFPA 1221.
6. The Barrie Fire and Emergency Service Communications branch staff are certified to the industry standard, NFPA 1061.



7. The Barrie Fire and Emergency Service radio infrastructure and computer aided dispatch (CAD) systems are very robust and capable of supporting additional customers.
8. Barrie Fire and Emergency Service is currently in the planning stages to secure a project manager and to initiate the procurement process to upgrade our legacy 911 system to the Next Generation 911 (NG911) system to meet legislative requirements.
9. Barrie Fire and Emergency Service has received multiple inquiries from other fire services regarding the potential of BFES providing their fire dispatch services.

ANALYSIS

10. Barrie Fire and Emergency Service facilities, infrastructure, radio system, and department experience supported by our partners in Information Technology are well prepared to increase the number of service contracts currently in place.
11. The current service contracts in place provide a significant and sustainable revenue source for the City of Barrie. Adding additional customers will increase our revenue opportunities using incumbent equipment and facilities.
12. The current approved complement positions do not have enough additional capacity and would need to be increased to provide the appropriate level of service if we increased the number of service contracts.
13. It is staff's recommendation that authority be provided to increase the approved complement where additional service contracts covered the additional staffing costs and resulted in increase revenue.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT MATTERS

14. There are no environmental or climate change impacts directly related to the recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

15. The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 General Committee could recommend that the number of complement positions remain at current levels.

This alternative is not recommended, as it would limit the City's ability to increase the number of dispatch service contracts. The economies of scale associated with additional service contracts would assist in recovering the City's costs as it transitions to Next Generation 9-1-1.

Alternative #2 General Committee could recommend that any additional service contract(s) requiring additional complement be presented to General Committee and Council for consideration.

While this alternative is available, it is not recommended. The proposed motion would streamline negotiations of any additional dispatch service contracts.

FINANCIAL

16. Financial implications will be dependant on the number and size of any new service contracts. The Fire Chief, Director of Finance and General Manager of Community and Corporate Services would review any opportunities to ensure that cost recovery is sustainable throughout the term of any new contract.

LINKAGE TO 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

17. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.