

To: Administration & Finance Executive Committee
From: Tyler Moffitt, Fire Chief/CEMC
Date: November 22, 2019
Subject: Update Renewal of Agreement: Kenora CACC Lake of The Woods District Hospital

Background

Currently, the Town of Fort Frances pays \$40.00 for each fire service call received by the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital.

The Term and Renewal of a new agreement will see **Fire Service Call Fees** increase to \$50.00 for each fire service call received by the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital.

The new agreement will commence on January 1, 2020, and shall have a term of 6 years, so that it will expire at 11:59 P.M. on December 31, 2025.

As well, I have included the copy of the updated agreement with the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital.

Meanwhile, I presented a similar report to the Administration & Finance Executive Committee on November 19, 2019.

I was then directed by the Administration & Finance Executive Committee to investigate the rational and reason for the 25% increase per call (\$40 to \$50), as well as the funding model of Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital; what percentage are they funded by the province of Ontario.

Update

I met with one of the Operations Managers (Jon Hensrud) of Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre; he confirmed the following with me on November 21, 2019.

Rational (Reason) for 25% Increase: Over the years the rate has sat at \$40 per call. Instead of raising it annually it was decided not to look for an increase until 2020.

A rate of \$60 per call was looked at first, which is a lot less than what other dispatch centre's in Ontario bill out. The rate of \$50 was agreed upon by all the stakeholders.

Any calls for ambulance assist, or first responder medical calls are not billed out. The page out to the responding Fire Service is **free**.

When Dryden Fire Service was looking at switching to another dispatch centre the cost came back at around \$100 per call; they decided to stay with the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital.

Province of Ontario Funding: The province funds the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre 100% for dispatching only the Ambulance (Paramedic) Services; it does not fund for dispatching Fire Rescue Services.

For example, Kenora Fire and Emergency Services has been dispatched 343 times as of October 31, 2019, while Dryden Fire Service during the same time period has been dispatched 161 times, and Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service has been dispatched 107 times.

There are ambulance calls being monitored simultaneously in the Rainy River District and the Kenora District at any given time Kenora Fire Emergency Services and other Fire Rescue Services are actively mobile. Each Fire Service has multiple units at any given time.

This all translated into the dispatch centre being very busy on any given day or night.

Fire Chiefs Comments

One of the reasons that the Paramedic Service and the OPP get funding from the Province of Ontario is because they are considered an Essential Service in the Province of Ontario; the Fire Rescue Service is not.

In fact, other Ontario communities in the past have sent letters to municipalities throughout Ontario, as well as up here in Northwestern Ontario to support the resolution of recognizing the Fire Rescue Service as an Essential Service in the Province of Ontario ... unfortunately ... many communities, including ones in Northwestern Ontario have declined to do so.

Recommendation

That the Administration & Finance Executive Committee recommends that Council approve the report as presented and bring forward the resolution to authorize the Fire Chief/CEMC to sign an agreement with the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre Lake of The Woods District Hospital, and that a by-law be prepared for signing by the Mayor and Clerk along with signing two copies of the agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tyler Moffitt".

Tyler Moffitt, Fire Chief/CEMC