

September 9, 2020

Report To: Mayor & Council

From: Doug Brown, CAO

SUBJECT: Annual Review of Tiered Response Agreement with RRDSSAB

On September 1st, 2020, a meeting held between the Town and RRDSSAB to complete an annual review of the Tiered Response Agreement executed with RRDSSAB back in July of 2017. Present at the meeting were Town Fire Chief Tyler Moffitt, Dan McCormick, RRDSSAB CAO/Paramedic Chief and Doug Brown, Town CAO. The Town has been responding to Code 4 – life threatening medical emergency calls in accordance with the executed agreement. (please find attached a copy of the current Tiered Response agreement with RRDSSAB).

During preparations for negotiations with the Fort Frances Professional Firefighters Association (FFPFFA) the negotiating committee flagged a concern respecting over time (O/T) costs incurred resulting from responding to EMS calls. As a result of this meeting, a lengthy discussion took place to determine if it was possible for RRDSSAB to reimburse the Town for OT costs incurred when responding to EMS calls. As an example, in 2019 the Town's Fire and Rescue Service incurred 62 OT hours for responding to 12 EMS calls at a cost of \$4,465.07. (please find attached spreadsheet outlining EMS call data & OT costs for the years 2017 to 2019). RRDSSAB indicated there was no means to reimburse the Town for these OT costs for responding to EMS calls.

Currently, there are usually 2 f/t fire fighters scheduled on day shift (7:00 am to 7:00 pm) and only 1 f/t firefighter scheduled on nightshift (7:00 pm to 7:00 am). As a result, it has been a standard protocol to call out all the off-shift f/t firefighters on night shift to respond to Code-4 EMS calls. However, RRDSSAB does not expect the Town to respond to EMS calls when there is only 1 f/t firefighter on shift, nor does RRDSSAB want the Town to incur OT costs to provide these services.

Fire Chief Moffitt has indicated that the Town's Fire and Rescue Service have traditionally always responded to all Code 4 life threatening EMS calls and from a health and safety point of view, it requires at least two f/t fire firefighters to attend any given EMS call. Fire Chief Moffitt is of the opinion that this level of service with respect to responding to EMS calls should continue.

The primary function of the Fire and Rescue Service is to provide fire services to the community, with emergency medical services being provided to the community by RRDSSAB. The Fire and Rescue Service provides secondary EM services to RRDSSAB in accordance with the existing tiered response agreement.

Ultimately, Council decides which level of service is provided to the Community by the Fire and Rescue Service. It is suggested the AFEC make a recommendation to Council on whether or not to continue to provide EMS response when there is only one f/t firefighter on shift and that a Standard Operating Procedure or Protocol be developed by the Fire Chief when there is only 1 f/t firefighter on any given shift.

This administration report and background information was prepared because of a concern being flagged the Town's fire negotiation committee.

The following is recommended by the Administration and Finance Executive Committee:

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Brown".

Doug Brown, CAO

Council approval of this report will agree to the following recommendations:

- 1) **THAT**
- 2) **THAT**