

Meeting Date: October 21, 2019
Department: Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Department
Prepared By: Brian George, Director of Fire Services/Fire Chief
Approved By: Greg McClinchey, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Creating a Centralized Fire Training Grounds at 8625 Falconbridge Drive.

RECOMMENDATION: **THAT:** Council allow a portion of the property known as 8625 Falconbridge Drive, to be used as a Fire Services Training Ground until the property is needed for other municipal purposes or until the Municipality liquidates the property.

BACKGROUND:

Council approved the purchase of the land adjacent to the Municipal Public Works yard (located at 8625 Falconbridge Drive) in order to facilitate the necessary expansion of the Public Works yard. As the entire parcel of land is not immediately required for the Municipal Engineering Department, the remaining area of the parcel would make an ideal location for a Fire Department training grounds.

The parcel is centrally located for all three station and would permit emergency responders from Station #1 and Station #3 to remain relatively close to their response districts while training.

The property currently has an older residential home on the grounds, a heated detached garage structure and a large shed along the southern boundary. A grassed area of approximately 1.75 acres would allow the fire department to conduct a myriad of training evolutions such as pumper operations, roof ventilation, ladder raises and extrication training. If granted the use of this space, we would be able to permanently stage the necessary "props" in ways that would allow for safer and more efficient training. Two of these props would be securely fastened to posts in the ground. This would properly secure them to prevent tipping or movement while fire fighters are training. The roof prop, with pitched roof faces, with replaceable panels, at ground level allowing fire fighters to train in a safer manner in the event a fire fighter "fell" off the roof pitch. For ladder raises and training we currently use the fire hall's roof areas to practice ladder raises which in turn can cause damage to our buildings over extended periods of time to roofing systems. Our extrication training would also be moved to this location which would give us more room. We currently use the training compound behind Station #1. This location has limited space and is in close proximity to residential housing.

It is proposed that the residential unit at 8625 Falconbridge Drive would be segregated into areas to conduct simultaneous training sessions. One area would be turned into a "Fire Fighter Self Rescue" area, another area would be turned into a permanent "Search and Rescue" area. Other segments could be used for teaching components of Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) for rescue and extraction of a downed firefighter. The options of a permanent residential home would provide the Department

with year round access to training facilities. Currently we rely on the good will of area residents to use homes that is slated for demolition for a brief period of time. Unfortunately, this reality limits training to the time frames beneficial to the home owner or contractor rather than facilitating training on the scheduled rotation.

The detached garage area would be utilized to place our forcible entry prop. The prop currently resides at Station #1. This would make it more accessible to firefighters working from all three stations.

There is also a small pole barn structure at the south portion of the property that would be jointly used by both the Environmental Services Division and Fire Department for storage of equipment that is not affected by cold weather.

COMMENTS:

The proposal would create a training ground that is centrally located for all three stations allowing those stations to be closer to their response districts if they receive a call for service during a training scenario. Station #2 would not be geographically impacted, however it would allow Station #1 and #3 to be closer to their districts. This would allow for more inter-station training which is beneficial for our members and the public we protect within the Municipality.



The residential home requires a roof to be redone for which an estimate has been received. The costing of the repair can be managed from within the Department’s existing training budget line.

I would be proposing a 2020 Capital Project to bring a water main further down Falconbridge Drive to facilitate a hydrant directly on the property for Pumper Operations. In discussions with the Director of Engineering, I have been advised that this could be used to facilitate water services in the future.

Public Works will be stripping the topsoil off the western portion of the property in order to use it a storage of granular materials they need. The topsoil could be placed along the north-western property line in order to create a berm for noise abatement and visual site lines to the training area.

CONSULTATION

Director of Engineering
Director of Building and Planning
Chief Administrative Officer

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Roof replacement, would cost \$3,390.00
Capital Project 2020 (water service) is estimated at approximately \$15,000.00.

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE