

Details of Service Change

The addition of three EVT's will improve Fire & Emergency Services' capacity to address the increase in fleet size, the expiration of warranties and the increased complexity of fleet apparatus. Aerial devices, fire pumps, foam systems, and their accompanying interlocks and control systems are additional components that are required to be maintained that are not typically found in other municipal fleets. The existing complement of seven EVT's is on two day shifts working Monday to Friday. The three new EVT's will make up a third shift which will allow for increased capacity without expanding the physical size of the shop and will increase the service hours. The third shift's priority will be proactive and preventative maintenance. Currently, each apparatus is scheduled for one annual Ministry of Transportation (MTO) inspection. A second inspection will be added at the six-month mark as a preventative step to help reduce downtime, reduce premature parts replacement, reduce demand repairs, reduce total lifecycle cost and improve vehicle reliability.

The current preventative-to-demand maintenance ratio is 20 per cent preventative and 80 per cent demand. Best practices suggest that the ratio should be 60 per cent preventative to 40 per cent demand. Limited preventative maintenance activities are driving up the number and frequency of unscheduled demand repairs and ultimately increasing cost and downtime when the annual MTO inspection is done.

Service Impact

The addition of a third shift will improve the condition of fleet apparatus, a critical component of efficient and effective emergency service. As Fire & Emergency Services operates 24 hour per day, 365 days per year, the supporting services must be in place to ensure consistent, reliable service. Spare vehicle inventory is limited so it is critical for preparedness that downtime is minimized.

BR #10814 – District Chiefs

Description of Budget Request

This BR is to add four permanent District Chief positions (one per shift) in 2027. These new positions will address span of control issues that will begin to arise once the construction of three (out of a total of six) planned new fire stations is complete.

Why Staff Recommend this Initiative

This will address the requirement to have adequate supervision of the additional staff due to the addition of six new fire stations over the next decade, three of which will be ready by 2027. Span of control at an emergency scene must be carefully managed. The added position will ensure a responsible ratio of supervisors to firefighters. Improving the span of control and distributed leadership will ensure that supervisors can provide proper oversight, guidance, and decision-making support.