

## **Details of Service Change**

The City of Mississauga is currently divided into three primary emergency response districts. Each of these primary response districts is overseen by a District Chief (Senior Officer) who has responsibility for overseeing the daily operations of the fire stations, apparatus and staff assigned to the response district. Each of the current emergency response districts has between six and eight fire stations depending on the geographical coverage of the district. Each of the three response districts includes a range of ten to eleven major firefighting apparatus and a staff complement of approximately fifty firefighters. The ratio of one District Chief to seven fire stations has proven to be an effective operational model for MFES. With the addition of six new stations, 120 firefighters and six new fire trucks, a fourth response district must be created, requiring one additional District Chief per shift. These positions need to be added in 2027 when three of the six stations are complete to maintain effective oversight.

## **Service Impact**

The creation of a fourth district with District Chiefs will address growth demands. It will provide a manageable span of control for each district of five to six stations and eight trucks and support improved response times for a District Chief to arrive on scene in an emergency. In the event that multiple incidents happen simultaneously, an additional district chief can manage one scene while others manage different scenes. This increases the department's capacity to deal with multiple emergencies effectively. With an additional District Chief, administrative duties can be better managed. This will lead to a more streamlined and efficient fire department, ensuring continuity in leadership and strategy.

## **BR #10815 – Training Officers**

### **Description of Budget Request**

New provincial requirements to certify firefighters to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards (particularly NFPA 1006 – Technical Rescue) will have a significant impact on all front-line fire suppression staff and require the addition of two Training Officers: one in 2025 and one in 2026. These training officers will support the training of more than 600 firefighters and meet the training requirements for speciality rescue disciplines set out in provincial legislation.

### **Why Staff Recommend this Initiative**

Provincial legislation now mandates minimum certification requirements in accordance with NFPA standards for several fire service positions for all Ontario fire departments. The regulation requires certification by July 1, 2026 or July 1, 2028 depending on the standard. MFES must train over 600 firefighters to these standards on or before the provincially mandated deadlines.