



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Prepared by: Dave Sutton, Fire Chief

Department: Fire Services

Date of Report: November 13, 2020

Report Number: FIRE 20-10

Subject: By-law Amendment – Fire Service Establishing and Regulating By-law #6073 as amended

Recommendation

That the report of Fire Chief dated November 13, 2020 (FIRE 20-10) regarding a proposed By-law amendment to the LaSalle Fire Service Establishing and Regulating By-Law #6073 as amended, be RECEIVED, and that the recommended wording changes in Appendix B *Non-Core Services*, to reflect current service level capabilities, be APPROVED.

It is further recommended that the amended By-law be supported at the appropriate point in the Council Agenda

Report

The Town of LaSalle By-law 6073 as amended, is the Establishing and Regulating By-law for the LaSalle Fire Service. This foundational document sets out Council's direction for the overall governance and operation of the municipal fire service, including the establishment of levels of service for both Core Services and Non-Core services. At this time it is necessary to recommend a Non-Core service level change in the provision of Confined Space Rescue, from *Operations* level capabilities to *Awareness* level.

As Council is aware, the fire service has undergone a period of significant renewal in recent years with retirements of long-serving personnel, recruitment for additional full-time positions, and increasing turnover among the volunteer (paid-on-call) ranks. As a result, the firefighter training program has necessarily adapted as required with increased focus in the areas of recruit training, and basic core services and skills retention. Provincially, there has also been a shift to NFPA Standards-based training

and certification, resulting in reduced availability of certified training in areas of specialized rescue.

Confined Space Rescue is classified as a specialized high risk – low frequency service area, requiring adequate specialized equipment, as well as extensive on-going training in order for providers to remain competent in the specialized skills required. Given the current operational challenges as outlined, LaSalle Fire Service is increasingly struggling to maintain *Operations* level competency for Confined Space Rescue capabilities. This issue was also the subject of a recommendation in the recently completed Fire Protection Services Master Plan, with the recommendation being to revise the service level from *Operations* to *Awareness* level of capabilities.

Fire administration has reviewed the recommendation and current status, and concurs with the recommended change to *Awareness* level. Effectively the operational difference would prohibit entry of personnel into confined spaces to perform a rescue, and limit rescue operations to controlling the scene, preventing current circumstances and operations from worsening, and assisting with self-rescue if possible, attempting non-entry surface rescue operations, and/or supporting *Operations* or *Technician* level rescue teams. Although a reduced level of service, the corresponding reduction in required levels of training and certification requirements is sustainable in our current context of overall operational capabilities.

Consultations

Fire Protection Services Master Plan

Financial Implications

Potential reduced training costs

Prepared By:



Fire Chief

Link to Strategic Goals

	Enhancing organizational excellence
X	Sustain strong public services and infrastructure
	Strengthen the community's engagement with the Town
	Grow and diversify the local economy
	Build on our high-quality of life

Communications

X	Not applicable
	Website
	Social Media
	News Release
	Local Newspaper
	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

Notifications

Name	Address	Email

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	By-Law Amendment Fire Service Establishing and Regulating By-law 6073 as amended.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 17, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia