



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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### Staff Report

**Report Title: Tillsonburg Fire Dispatch Agreement**

**Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief**

**Department: Fire and Emergency Services**

**Date: Mar. 7, 2022**

**Report Number: FIRE-2022-03-9**

**File Number: C-11-FIRE**

#### **Attachments:**

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#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report FIRE-2022-03-9 prepared by Chris Cleave Fire Chief AND authorizes entering into an agreement with the Town of Tillsonburg for the provisions of Fire Department Communications services for the Huron-Kinloss Fire & Emergency Services AND FURTHER authorizes the appropriate By-Law coming forward.

#### **Background:**

The Council of the Township of Huron-Kinloss and the Lucknow District Fire Board approved the 2022 operational budget submissions of the Fire Chief for both the Ripley-Huron and Lucknow District Fire Departments. This included expenditure amounts to cover the costs associated with the per capita increase for Dispatching Services.

The agreement that is submitted is for a 5-year term and includes a 2% annual increase to the per capita rates as detailed in the agreement. The population to determine per capita is based on the 2021 census information.

Discussion did occur during the Council budget meeting held on February 18, 2022, about the use of other dispatch providers and Council determined at that time to not source other service providers and continue using the services of Tillsonburg Fire Communications Centre. This was also the recommendation of the Fire Chief.

**Discussion:**

In 2024 next Generation 911 will become active and in service. This is a province wide system that will replace existing 911 systems.

Next-generation 911 (NG911) will replace the current 911 infrastructure to address the changing needs of emergency communications and service delivery. It will enable digital information, such as text, videos, and photos, to be sent from the public to the 911 communication centre, and this information will be relayed to emergency responders. This will be an invaluable tool for gaining a better understanding of emergencies. It could also connect with other information systems so that vital information is delivered to the first responders while enroute to the scene, or up-to-date information about the road network is shared to help the responding unit get to the caller as quickly as possible. NG-911 will provide technological efficiencies in call routing, answering, processing, locating emergencies, situational information, and call typing of emergencies to ensure appropriate and adequate rural fire services resources are deployed to emergencies across Ontario. As such there are costs associated for all Emergency Services Communications Centres and their service partners. In 2024 there will be a cost per capita contribution required by Huron-Kinloss to upgrade our system.

As previously reported, our service provider (Tillsonburg Fire Communications) had applied for Municipal Modernization Program funding to fund phase 2 of the upgrades required in their communication centre to accommodate the NG911 systems. This amounts to \$108,266.00 and the support will help off set the substantial costs to the 23 small and rural municipalities dispatched by the Tillsonburg Fire Communications Centre. Tillsonburg Fire Services has entered into an agreement with Bell Canada for a 3-phase implementation agreement to ensure NG-911 services are available for small and rural fire service communications partners.

There will be a cost to the Township of Huron-Kinloss and to the Lucknow District Fire Board over and above what has already been sourced by Tillsonburg for funding to upgrade the radio infrastructure to allow for NG911 systems. These costs will be accounted for in the 2024 Budget Cycle.

The NG911 costs for 2024 as detailed in the agreement are \$1.25 per capita and this will be based off the 2021 census information. The cost breakdown payable in 2024 is as follows:

Ripley-Huron Fire Department –  $4070 \times 1.25 = \$5087.50$

Lucknow District Fire Department –  $5623 \times 1.25 = \$7028.75$

An information report will be provided to the Lucknow District Fire Board.

**Financial Impacts:**

As detailed and approved in the annual operational budgets as submitted.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having services and amenities nearby.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Chris Cleave, Fire Chief/CEMC

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer