

FIRE SERVICES TRAINING FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

DESCRIPTION:

During budget 2022 deliberations, Council requested a review be completed. Dave Mitchell and Associates were awarded the contract to conduct this review. This review ought to be considered within the larger Fire/Rescue strategic framework that commenced prior to the new Fire Hall #1 planning. The last Standards of Cover review was conducted in 2015/16. Many of the gaps identified have grown since then, and the 2022 midpoint refresh report provides updated recommendations that ought to drive the next generation of professional Fire/Rescue Services in Prince George. This review shall drive the strategic framework from which to conduct a multi-phased, multi-year long-term plan.

Although many of the recommendations (18 of 24) identified in the 2015/16 Standards of Cover review have been actioned, the remaining gaps have grown in the previous seven years. Some of the reasons include, an evolving and increasingly more complex regulatory environment (to include training and OHS), substantial increase in calls for service, and a growing community with increases in new build structures, particularly in multi-story residential units. It is acknowledged that closing the service level gap is a multi-year initiative, with tradeoff costs that Council shall consider.

The intent of this enhancement is to maintain momentum to action one major recommendation, the development of a Fire Training Center.

Two main recommendations for this enhancement:

1. Hire a consultant to conduct a detailed feasibility study (completed) in 2023 to identify and provide options for Council to consider in budget 2024 to commence work on a Fire Training Center. This site ought to have sufficient size to accommodate future Fire Service growth as recommended in the Mitchell Report. Within this scope of work will include differing service models, including potential partnerships;
2. Administration shall begin work on a multi-year, multi-phased plan to implement the recommendations in accordance with budget realities. This ought to be considered by Council as a multi-year strategic initiative, in concert with police services and bylaw services, as part of a comprehensive protective services plan.

FINANCIAL COST OF THE ENHANCEMENT:

This Service Enhancement recommendation shall not be more than **\$100,000** to cover all cost associated with this feasibility study.

MEASUREMENT OF SERVICE LEVEL INCREASE:

The metrics used to measure the change in service level will include the procurement of a contractor to conduct the feasibility study; collaborate with the consultant on identifying potential front end or future stakeholder partners; develop concept options relating to potential locations and general design of a multi-phased training facility, and finally delivering this feasibility study report to council end of Q2, beginning of Q3 2023.