

DATE: November 7 2023

TO: **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

NAME AND TITLE: Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

SUBJECT: Fire Services Training Site Project Review

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. City of Prince George Fire Training Centre Report – Cornerstone Planning
2. PowerPoint presentation

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council:

1. AUTHORIZE Administration to submit a one-time enhancement not to exceed \$75,000 for the Budget 2024 deliberations to conduct phase 2 of the Prince George Fire Training Site Feasibility Study in 2024, as described in the report titled: “Fire Services Training Site Project Review”, dated November 7, 2023, from the Director of Public Safety; and
2. SUPPORTS Administration to build a multi-year, multi-phase Fire Training center site plan to comply with the recommendations set forth in the ‘PGFRS Standard of Cover 2022 – Midpoint Review’ for future Council consideration.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the Fire Service Training site feasibility project. During budget 2023 deliberations, Council approved an enhancement for Fire Services to contract a consultant to conduct the study. Cornerstone Planning Group was awarded the contract. The scope of the project included completing a feasibility study surrounding the development of a new fire training site, a high-level assessment for the needs of a 5th fire hall and the suitability to expand/redevelop fire hall 2 for future staffing growth.

Quentin Talbot-Kelly, Partner Cornerstone Planning Group, is in attendance to present his findings. An executive summary is attached, and the final technical report will be available later this fall. Fire Chief Warner is also in attendance for Q&A.

DISCUSSION:

This seven-month project began with an in-person stakeholder engagement session, where partners within the community and region were given a summary of the project and the opportunity to share their training needs and how a training site may benefit their organization. The collection of needs were compiled to formulate the program of the training site, and ultimately a concept drawing of the site. To provide context, two concepts were developed, one identifying the specific needs of Prince George Fire Rescue, and a second expanding to include the needs of various other stakeholders. The two site concepts provide an opportunity to gauge how a

training site could scale based on an acceptable order of magnitude. Project timelines and available budget resulted in the consultant assessing the condition of fire hall #2 for suitability to expand or redevelop based on future staffing growth. Finally, a high-level assessment for a 5th fire hall as identified in previous fire service reports.

Two main recommendations form this staff report:

1. The overwhelming support from stakeholders on the needs of a training site that could benefit many in the region, resulted in the recommendation to continue with phase 2 of the project to further explore stakeholder interest in an effort to establish an order of magnitude for the overall project, develop a detailed phased approach to the site, ultimately resulting in options for Council to consider in budget 2025 to commence work on a Fire Training Centre. Administration recommends Council approve a 2024 budget enhancement not to exceed \$75,000 (any additional costs will be covered operationally) to hire a consultant to conduct the continued phase of this project.
2. Administration shall continue work on the multi-year, multi-phased plan to implement the recommendations within budget realities.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The attached presentation provides the high-level initial findings from the Fire Services Training site feasibility study, including results from the stakeholder engagement session, concept drawings and recommendations to continue the project.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Adam Davey, Director of Public Safety

PREPARED BY: Cliff Warner, Fire Chief, PGFRS

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: November 20 2023