



Staff Report FIRE2022-010

Title of Report: FIRE2022-010- Training Night Wage Increase
Department: Fire
Council Date: March 16, 2022

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report FIRE2022-010 for information; and
That Council approve increasing training nights from 2 to 3 hours per session, with a wage increase for the Volunteer Firefighters training attendees from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per night; and
That Council approve that Cost of Living Allowance be applied to training wages in 2023.

Background:

The Dundalk Fire Department has been training bi-weekly with truck checks being completed on a separate night. Currently training nights have been two hours only with payment being a flat rate of \$35.00

If a firefighter attends 100% of training nights the firefighter will receive 48 hours of firefighter training and 24 hours of truck check maintenance. The Dundalk fire department attendance requirements for training is currently 70%.

Staff Comments:

During discussions with the province regarding mandatory certification the topic of training nights was brought up and what the correct number or industry standard of training hours a year should be for volunteer firefighters. There was and is no concrete answer for this question.

Currently the department responds to medical assists, carbon monoxide alarms, motor vehicle accidents, industrial accidents, fires (grass, chimney, vehicle, structure), fluid leaks, gas leaks and power lines down. Staff believe the current hours of training is not sufficient enough to provide adequate safety to our members.

Officers agree that by increasing the training nights from the current 2 hours to 3 hours will allow for a total of 84 hours of training with 24 hours still dedicated to truck check maintenance will provide firefighters the appropriate training required to perform safely on scenes. With the increase to time training at the hall staff feel it is only fair to increase the practice rate to a flat rate of \$50.00 a training night subject to COLA each year.

Financial Implications:

There will be a potential increase of \$13,365.00 paid out in wages for practices if every member attends 100% of practices for the remainder of the year. Due to the

vacancy of a Deputy Chief position in the first quarter, this increase cost for training night compensation will be within the approved 2022 budget.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public. Southgate Goal #1-A – Trusted, Timely, Transparent, Decision Making.

Concluding Comments:

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head:	<i>Original Signed By</i>	CAO Approval:	<i>Original Signed</i>
	Derek Malynyk, Fire Chief Official		Dave Milliner, CAO