

Township of Southgate
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Staff Report FIRE2023-004

Title of Report: FIRE2023-004-False Alarm Fee
Department: Fire
Council Date: April 5, 2023

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report FIRE2023-004 for information; and

That Council direct staff to bring forward an amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law No. 2022-180 Schedule B to include the approved MTO Rate at a future meeting of Council to allow for a fee to be charged when the Fire Department attends more than three false alarm calls at the same property within one calendar year.

Background:

Since January 1, 2023, the Dundalk Fire Department has attended a commercial property within the Township of Southgate four times for false alarms. To date this has cost \$1008.32 in volunteer firefighter wages for response to these false alarms. Each time an alarm has been activated at this property the keyholder has forgotten to notify the alarm company that a contractor is on site conducting work on the suppression system.

Staff Comments:

With the expanded development of Dundalk and an increase in newly constructed buildings moving to monitored alarms the department is seeing an increase in false alarm calls. Staff are recommending that all properties within the Township of Southgate are allotted three free false alarm calls for their properties per calendar year with additional calls being billed at the approved MTO rate. False alarm calls consist of smoke alarm activation with no smoke visible, carbon monoxide alarm activation with no carbon monoxide present, alarm system malfunction, alarm system accidental activation and malicious intent/prank activation.

Responses to legitimate emergencies for these properties will not be included in the three free calls allotted to each property.

Financial Implications:

There will not be any additional financial implications as a result of this report.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council direct staff to bring forward an amendment to the fees and charges By-law to allow for a fee to be charged when the Dundalk Fire Department responds to more than three false alarm calls at a property within the Township of Southgate within one calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Derek Malynyk, Fire Chief Official

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dina Lundy, CAO

Attachments: