



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2025-03-19
Report Number	FIRE2025-004
Title:	Town of Hanover Fire Protection Agreement
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Derek Malynyk Chief Fire Official, Fire Chief
Approved By:	Jim Ellis Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

This report is being provided to Council to enter into a fire protection agreement with the Town of Hanover for fire department technical rescue services consisting of rope rescue, swift water, static water and ice water rescue.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff Report FIRE2025-004 be received for information; and
That Council consider approval of By-Law 2025-029 to authorize the Municipal Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Hanover.

Background:

On July 1, 2022, Ontario Regulation 343/22: Firefighter Certification came into effect. All fire departments in the province of Ontario must certify their firefighters within two years of being hired to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for their core services that the municipality elects to provide through its Establishing and Regulating Bylaw. The compliance date for any Technical Rescue services offered by a Municipality is July 1st 2028. The Ontario Regulation applies to the following Technical Rescues disciplines: rope rescue, structural collapse, confined space, trench rescue, surface water, swift water and ice water.

Before July 1st, 2022, in Ontario, training for these disciplines were left to the local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An AHJ was permitted to provide training to their own department and sign off on the firefighters as competent when they met the Job Performance Requirements (JPR) of the NFPA standard for each technical rescue discipline that the fire department was authorized to provide.

Subsequently in 2021 and 2022 NFPA amended and consolidated their standards for technical rescue operations to the following two standards. NFPA 1006 Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications and NFPA 1500 Standard for Operations and Training for

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Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services.

Analysis

The Dundalk Fire Department currently offers water rescue to the shore-based standard. This consists of firefighters anchoring off to a fixed object by life safety rope on shore and throwing a rope bag from the shoreline to a patient in the water. The patient is then brought into shore by firefighters rotating the rope in a pendulum motion.

Under the new consolidated NFPA standard the current service offered of shore based by the Dundalk Fire Department is no longer an option. Currently NFPA has three levels of service for technical rescue disciplines, and they are as follows: Awareness, Operations and Technician level.

Awareness level is when a fire department will contain/secure the scene, identify the emergency and call for assistance. The training required for this can still be completed in house.

Operations level is when a fire department plans on intervening in some manner. In the case of water rescue approaching the shoreline and throwing a rope bag is considered operations level and would require the department to train to NFPA 1006 Operations level.

Technician level is when a fire department has firefighters, or a watercraft enter the water to perform a rescue and requires the fire department to train and certify to NFPA 1006 Technician level.

If the Dundalk Fire Department were to continue to offer water rescue at the new operations level the department would be required to train and certify to NFPA 1006 operations level for both swift water and surface water. This training would require an additional 40-60 hours of training each year per member. Past call history shows very limited amount of water rescue-based calls with the limited calls being in the central and west end of Southgate Township.

The Hanover Fire Department is currently on track to certify to NFPA 1006 Technician level in rope rescue, surface water, swift water and ice water rescue by July 1st, 2028.

During conversations with the Ontario Fire Marshalls office regarding O. Reg 343/22 Firefighter Certification and Ontario Regulation 378/18 Community Risk Assessments simply opting out of a service in a Municipalities Establish and Regulating is not sufficient anymore. If a municipality has identified in its community risk assessment that there is a risk which would require technical rescue services, the Municipality must have a plan to address it.

By entering into this agreement with the Town of Hanover, The Township of Southgate would have rope rescue, and all water rescue services covered within the township which also could be utilized by West Grey Fire Services and Wellington North Fire Services when they are responding within Southgate.

Internal Policy and Legislated Requirements:

Ontario Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1197, S.O. 1997, C4 2. *(1) Every municipality shall (b) provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances. (5) A municipality may, under such conditions as may be*

specified in the agreement, enter into an agreement to, (b) receive such fire protection services as may be specified in the agreement from a fire department situated outside the territorial limits of the municipality.

Ontario Regulation. 343/ 22: Firefighter Certification 2. (1) Every municipality, and every fire department in a territory without municipal organization, must ensure that its firefighters perform a fire protection service set out in Column 1 of Table 1 only if, on or after the corresponding day specified in Column 3 of that Table,

(a) the firefighter performing the fire protection service is certified, at a minimum, to the corresponding certification standard set out in Column 2 of that Table; or

(b) this Regulation provides that the certification standard referred to in clause (a) does not apply with respect to the firefighter.

(2) The certification must be,

(a) provided by the Fire Marshal; or

(b) an accreditation from the International Fire Safety Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), or a Pro Board seal, that is recognized by the Fire Marshal as equivalent to the certification provided by the Fire Marshal.

Ontario Regulation 378/18 Community Risk Assessment: 1. Every municipality, and every fire department in a territory without municipal organization, must,

(a) complete and review a community risk assessment as provided by this Regulation; and

(b) use its community risk assessment to inform decisions about the provision of fire protection services.

Financial and Resource Implications:

The Town of Hanover would invoice the Township of Southgate the current MTO rate per apparatus on a fee for use basis.

Attachments:

None.