

Report to Council



Date: July 24, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Lake Country Fire Mutual Aid Enhancement
Department: Fire Department

Recommendation:

THAT Council receive, for information, the report of the Kelowna Fire Department, dated July 24^h, 2023 regarding automatic aid with District of Lake Country Fire Department

Purpose:

To inform Council on how the Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement will be used to put in place automatic responses by Kelowna and District of Lake Country Fire departments in areas that are operationally beneficial.

Background:

The City of Kelowna participates in the Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement for the Regional District of Central Okanagan. This agreement was last renewed by Council on March 13th of this year. It provides for support between participating fire departments during emergencies where support is needed.

The City of Kelowna previously contracted the District of Lake Country to provide fire services to areas along the northern portion of Kelowna including the Commonwealth Road area and the Finch Road area. In 2018, Kelowna Fire Department (KFD) began staffing the fire station in Glenmore, which reduced the need for the contract with Lake Country Fire Department (LCFD), as our response times were consistent with other areas of the City.

Resolution	Date
THAT Council receive the report of the Fire Chief, dated March 13 th , 2023 regarding the renewal of the Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement; AND THAT Council authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement as attached to the report of the Fire Chief, dated March 13, 2023	March 13, 2023

Discussion:

The northern portion of the City is serviced by Glenmore Firehall, with support coming from Enterprise Firehall and Rutland Firehall as required. With the staffing of Glenmore Firehall in 2018, we no longer required a contract with District of Lake Country as we were able to provide service equitable to other areas of the City.

Over the past year, KFD has worked with LCFD to develop a strong, operational relationship. This has included looking at areas where support between the departments would best serve the public. For Kelowna, this includes the Commonwealth/Beaver Lake area and the Finch Road Area. For Lake Country, this has included areas in the southern portion of their fire protection area. The focus of the discussions has been on specific risk responses including structural fire response and wildland urban interface fire response. For both these incident types, it was recognized there was a strong potential where the mutual aid agreement would be of benefit but that the timing of the mutual aid request may slow down support.

By enhancing the mutual aid in these areas to an automatic predetermined response simplifies the dispatch process. For specific areas and call types, apparatus will be assigned based on best response and will include both departments. Resources activated under the mutual aid will be released as soon as is possible to return to their home jurisdiction. This essentially escalates the timing of using the mutual aid agreement and all responses will still follow the mutual aid protocols currently in place, including potential for cost recovery in long duration events.

Based on data from the last 10 years, it is anticipated that Kelowna will use LCFD resources automatically assigned to a response approximately 2-5 times a year, with a similar number of instances of KFD responding to support Lake Country. Of these responses, based on historical data, units will be released within 2 hours of responding.

Conclusion:

The Kelowna Fire Department has worked collaboratively with Lake Country Fire Department on identifying areas of common concern, especially related to structural fire and wildland urban interface risk. Both departments are recommending that our current Mutual Aid Agreement be enhanced for specific areas for structural or wildland interface fires. This will provide the quickest, highest level of response to these areas, reducing risk and increasing service to the public.

Internal Circulation:

Corporate and Protective Services
City Clerk's Office

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: T Whiting, Fire Chief

Approved for inclusion:

SL