



NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets - Calgary Fire Department

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Wyness, Councillor Sharp, Councillor Mian, Councillor McLean

WHEREAS The City of Calgary's 2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey reported that 95% of Calgarians believe the Fire Department is a "Very Important" municipal service, while 99% are "Very" or "Somewhat" satisfied with the service;

AND WHEREAS the Fire Department has experienced an unprecedented and unplanned increase in service expectations as first responders to an increasing number of physical and mental health related distress calls, as exemplified by the following indicators from 2020 to 2021:

- a) a 54% increase in overdose-related responses;
- b) a 38% increase in Critical Medical Interventions; and
- c) a 47% increase in fires across Calgary.

AND WHEREAS the impacts of the global pandemic and an increasing rate of opioid overdose-related calls (which can be defined as an "opioid crisis") in Calgary has added to the tracked growth in service demands on the Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS firefighters are exposed to unique occupational health and safety hazards associated with high rates of PTSD and other stress injuries¹, as well as elevated occupational cancer incidence and mortality rates²;

AND WHEREAS the Calgary Fire Department has been burdened with changes in the EMS service delivery model due to the increase of red alerts within the province, changes to the provincial dispatch system, and changes to EMS dispatch protocols;

AND WHEREAS Council has endorsed the Greater Downtown Plan, reinforcing the downtown as the economic and cultural heart of Calgary, with outcomes further taxing the current fire protection service levels available and planned for the area;

AND WHEREAS downtown Calgary is by far the most densely populated area of Alberta with plans for increased density, thereby reinforcing the need for the Fire Department to be prepared to address the unique challenges of high-rise firefighting;

¹ Carleton et al. 2017. [Mental Disorder Symptoms among Public Safety Personnel in Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, 63(1): 54-64.

² National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). 2015. [Findings from a Study of Cancer among U.S. Fire Fighters](#).

AND WHEREAS City Council has supported the Fire Department's commitment to improving how the Department addresses equity, diversity, and inclusion in their workforce and as part of service delivery;

AND WHEREAS Calgary is experiencing more frequent and severe climate events that require a Fire Department equipped and trained to serve Calgarians in response to the diverse impacts of a changing climate;

AND WHEREAS the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global self-funded non-profit organization, established in 1896, devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards through the implementation of standards designed to minimize the risk and effects of fire by establishing criteria for building, processing, design, service, and installation around the world.

AND WHEREAS The City of Calgary recognizes the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as industry-leading best practices, with the Fire Department adhering to many NFPA standards such as those relating to equipment, training, and apparatus;

AND WHEREAS in 2020, the NFPA released a revised Standard 1710³ identifying recommended minimum numbers of firefighters per vehicle type and, separately, recommended minimum number of firefighters for initial response by level of fire hazard;

AND WHEREAS home insurance costs can be impacted by municipal fire protection service levels;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to report back through the Executive Committee no later than June 2022 with:

1. An estimate of resources (reflecting both operating and capital costs) required to meet the applicable staffing levels and service model recommended by NFPA Standard 1710;
2. A high-level overview of risks facing the Calgary Fire Department, and associated mitigation strategies currently in place along with a preliminary assessment of these strategies' effectiveness;
3. Potential timelines for a phased approach for meeting applicable staffing levels recommended by NFPA Standard 1710; and
4. A recommended approach for the 2023-2026 budget cycle.

³ NFPA. 2020. [Standard 1710](#): Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments.