



Report number: EC2026-0428

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2026 May 06

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Establishing a Fire Protective Services Committee

Sponsoring Member(s) of Council: Councillors Wyness, Jamieson, Pantazopoulos, Yule, Clark, Mayor Farkas

WHEREAS The Calgary Fire Department provides critical public safety services to Calgarians.

AND WHEREAS The Calgary Fire Department currently operates within the City's organizational structure as a business unit under the General Manager of Community Services.

AND WHEREAS In 2026, CFD's operating budget expenditures is \$360M or \$7.6% of the City's departmental expenditures and has a 2026 capital budget of \$57M. While the City of Calgary's population has increased by an estimated 25% since 2018, CFD has seen a 50% increase in demand since 2020. Despite operational funding increases, the inflation adjusted operational budget has increased by 0.7% between 2018 to 2024. In addition, the department has only been able to utilize an average of 49% of its capital budget allocation from 2020 to 2025—suggesting significant barriers to capital deployment evident through delayed station construction and apparatus procurement.

AND WHEREAS First-in engine to fires response times remains below Council targeted ≤ 7 minutes (met 82.5% in 2024 and 81.9% in 2025). The 90th percentile for assembling an Effective Response Force in 2025 at 12min 45 seconds with Council targeted $\leq 11:00$ attained 75.4% in 2025—targets are considerably behind NFPA 1710 guidance and other major municipalities.

AND WHEREAS Council Committees serve as vital advisory bodies that provide specialized expertise, community and stakeholder input, and provide greater transparency, detailed analyses and elevated decision-making to City Council. Council Committees allow for Council and the Public to review policies, budgets, capital planning, expenditures and progress, and strengthen governance and Council decision-making.

AND WHEREAS Council has the authority to establish council committees and other bodies and to delegate powers by bylaw under Alberta's Municipal Government Act (including s.145, s.203), as further supplemented by the City of Calgary Charter, 2018 Regulation. In the same manner it grants Council the ability to establish Committees, it also does not fetter future Council decisions to make changes to a committee.

AND WHEREAS Council has demonstrated through Audit Committee Bylaw 33M2020 that a committee can be established by bylaw with a defined mandate, mixed Council-public membership, annual work planning, annual budget recommendation, authority to request reports and institute special studies, regular meetings, term review, and self-assessment;

AND WHEREAS Administration has recently identified the estimated cost to stand up a new Council Committee, including additional capacity within the Clerk's office to be \$283,000 over 2 years.

AND WHEREAS While it is necessary for capital and operational functions to span across multiple portfolios within the organization, there have been challenges in maximizing capital deployment and meeting service level standards. The Calgary Fire Services Committee would create a more adaptable and agile governance model that would strengthen transparency and public accountability, support more efficient capital deployment and oversight of operational needs thereby increasing CFD's ability to meet the service level standards that Calgarians require.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that Council direct administration to:

1. Prepare and return through Executive Committee no later than Q3 2026 with a Calgary Fire Services Committee Bylaw, Committee Terms of Reference and Committee Member Skills Matrix substantially informed by the current Audit Committee Bylaw 33M2020.
2. Include additional budget requirements for the new Committee for Council to consider as part of the 2027-2030 Budget deliberations.
3. Direct the City Clerk to plan for the exception to allow for Public speakers for the item's presentation at the Q3 2026 Executive Committee.