

Meeting Date: June 18, 2025
Department: Fire Services
Report No.: FIRE-2025-06
Submitted by: Brad Bigrigg, Fire Chief
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Fire Station Locations

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report FIRE-2025-06 for information and further;
THAT: Fire Station 2 continue to be located in the Mount Brydges settlement area, and further;
THAT: Fire Station 3 continue to be located in the Melbourne settlement area.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the municipality engaged Emergency Management & Training Inc. to conduct a Fire Station Location Study for the municipality. The report is very thorough and detailed. Essentially the report recommends closing the existing Fire stations 2 and 3 and operating out of a newly constructed, consolidated single station located on Glendon Drive between Christina Road and Rougham Road. The suggested response time from this proposed station looks promising from the outside.

The recommended station location is approx. 2 km west of the Mt. Brydges settlement area boundary. The distance from the proposed location to Melbourne is challenging to justify. Historically, when fire stations are consolidated, residents/ratepayers in the affected fire districts view the building of a single fire station, as a reduction in the level of service, particularly given the travel time from the new station to the extreme boundaries of the new fire district.

Some of the issues associated with the suggested single station include the low population density near the proposed station to draw volunteer firefighters from, travel time from current volunteer firefighter addresses and potential morale issues with current VFF. Residents may also consider it a needless expense. Consideration must also be given to the potential loss/modification of the Tanker Shuttle Accreditation and a corresponding increase in ratepayer fire insurance premiums due to distances from the new fire station.

The current Fire Protection Agreement with Southwest Middlesex may also be impacted, resulting in a potential reduction/loss of revenue (\$ 151 K) and loss of contribution to the purchase of new fire apparatus, associated with the closure of Station 3 and relocation to the new fire station location.

COMMENTS:

The fire chief recommends maintaining the three fire station model with the understanding that stations 2 and 3 will require renovation or replacement in the next 7-10 years.

CONSULTATION:

C.A.O. Browning, Fire Advisory Committee, Fire Leadership Team

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Consolidate Stations 2 and 3 into a single station located on Glendon Drive between Christina Road and Rougham Road.
2. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities: Community Safety

ATTACHMENTS: None