



## **FIRE SERVICES** *Staff Report*

---

REPORT NO: FS-2024-07

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: R. Leeson, Fire Chief

PREPARED BY: R. Leeson, Fire Chief

REVIEWED BY: Greg Clark, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: 2024-12-16

SUBJECT: Fire Service Boundary Agreement Blandford-Blenheim

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report FS-2024-07, regarding the Boundary agreement between the Township of Wilmot and the Township of Blandford-Blenheim be received: and further

THAT the agreement has changed from a per capita agreement to a fee for service agreement: and further

THAT the agreement has been reviewed by both parties, including a legal review; and further

THAT the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be authorized to sign the Execution Agreement.

### SUMMARY:

This report outlines the existing Boundary Fire Service agreement with the Township of Blandford-Blenheim, and the extension with no end date and with a change from a per capita agreement to a fee for service agreement.

## BACKGROUND:

The existing agreement covers a five (5) year term, Wilmot Fire has provided coverage for thirty-seven (37) properties in the Township of Blandford-Blenheim based on a per capita fee of \$156.93 as billed in 2024.

## REPORT:

The existing agreement will expire at the end of 2024, and the proposed new agreement would not have a renewal date. Instead, the agreement will stay in effect until a new one is made or terminated with 12 months' notice. The new agreement will have one change, move from a per capita agreement to fee for service. The former agreement had a set amount invoiced to Blandford-Blenheim each year regardless of call volume in the identified coverage area. A fee for service agreement essentially levels the playing field for both parties. If Wilmot attends many calls in the coverage area, Blandford-Blenheim would experience increased costs, however, in a quieter year, those costs would be lower to the township using the fee for service agreement. Fee for service agreements have gained popularity over the years, providing a sensible revenue agreement for services that are provided or received in boundary communities based on actuals instead of speculation.

In the fee for service agreement, Blandford-Blenheim will agree to pay the sum equal to the current MTO rate per fire apparatus for the first hour and after the first hour in 30-minute increments. Should Wilmot attend a structure fire in the coverage area, Blandford-Blenheim would be immediately notified with the goal of releasing Wilmot when feasible and safe to do so. Wilmot will not be responsible for non-emergency calls, public education, fire inspections, fire investigations, or fire cause determination. Should Wilmot FD be required to use fire foam to suppress a fire, Blandford-Blenheim would be responsible to reimburse the costs incurred by Wilmot unless otherwise billable to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

## ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

This Report is aligned with the Strategic Plan goal of enjoying our quality of life through ensuring people's safety. In addition, it aligns with being an engaged community through reviewing operational efficiencies and use of resources.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

As the annual fees due from Blandford-Blenheim in 2025 would be based on actual calls versus the current fixed fee model, there will be a variance from the budgeted revenue. The current budget will remain and will be adjusted starting in 2026 to reflect a rolling 5-year average actual experience. Using call volume statistics in the Blandford-Blenheim coverage area from 2020 to date we will provide a breakdown based on fee for services compared to per capita using the same data.

We will assume a 3-truck response for one hour per call. MTO Rate is published annually and includes a COLA increase.

Note: Medical calls would be a one truck response

Calls	Date	MTO Rate per HR	3 Truck Response	Total Based on Calls
3	2020	\$485.00	\$1,455	\$4,365
2	2021	\$488.40	\$1,465.20	\$2,930.40
2	2022	\$509.89	\$1,529.67	\$3,059.34
2	2023	\$543.03	\$1,629.09	\$3,258.18
1	2024 to date	\$559.86	\$1,679.58	\$1,679.58
Total over 5-year contract based on Fee for service				\$15,292.50

Per Capita over 5-year contract

Year	Annual Per Capita Cost (includes COLA)	Annual Total (Times 37 Properties)
2020	\$144.97	\$5,363.89
2021	\$147.87	\$5,471.19
2022	\$150.83	\$5,580.71
2023	\$153.85	\$5,692.45
2024	\$156.93	\$5,806.41
Total over 5 years contract based on per capita		\$27,914.65

**ATTACHMENTS:**

By-law 2024-?? Agreement for Boundary Fire Coverage – Blandford-Blenheim