



2024 Budget Request

Request: Fire Services Master Plan

Department: Office of the CAO

Request ID: CAO2024BUDGET-C-03

Financial Ask: \$75,000

Funding Source: Capital – Fire Department

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Background and Strategic Priority

A Fire Services Master Plan is a strategic plan that seeks to align the growth and change in the municipality with the growth and change of its Fire Department to ensure that emergency service provision remains responsive to community needs. A Fire Services Master Plan responds to several legislative requirements and seeks to ensure that the Fire Department(s) serving the Township can do so efficiently and effectively.

Analysis

The Township of Georgian Bluffs is served by Inter Township Fire Department (ITFD) and by the Town of South Bruce Peninsula fire department who provide services to the northern end of the Township. ITFD are a shared service with the Municipality of Meaford and operate from a fire hall in Owen Sound providing response to the south of the Township.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act enables a municipality to establish a fire department. The Municipal Act enables municipalities to pass bylaws to establish such departments and/or enter into agreements to provide services to the municipality.

A Fire Services Master Plan is a commonly undertaken process that in essence, seeks to evaluate the risks a community is exposed to, and align the services provided by a fire department(s) to those risks.



Fire Departments generally provide three areas of activity:

1. Education – seeking to mitigate the impacts of fire and life hazards before they occur.
2. Inspection and Enforcement – ensuring that regulatory requirements are met through providing and inspection and enforcement.
3. Emergency Response – it is hoped that the first two activities reduce the risk for the emergency response, but dealing with fires and life hazards is a critical function of a fire department.

A Fire Services Master Plan seeks to provide strategic direction to a municipality on how to address these needs through the provision of fire services. For the Township of Georgian Bluffs, this will be a review of the existing service provision assessing the extent to which it meets current needs and evaluating the opportunities and challenges over coming years. It is a municipal plan that helps the municipality work with its department(s) as needed to address community needs.

The Municipality of Meaford completed a Fire Services Master Plan in 2019. The Municipality of South Bruce Peninsula completed a Community Risk Assessment (an underlying element of a Fire Services Master Plan) in 2022. The Township of Georgian Bluffs has not completed a comprehensive Fire Services Master Plan to date.

The compilation of a Fire Services Master Plan is somewhat technical and relies on specialist knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of fire departments and the legislative umbrella they fall under. Master Plans and the community risk assessments they include are typically undertaken by outside consulting firms and staff are recommending that this approach be undertaken in 2024 to develop a draft plan for the Township. Staff at the Township will work with a consultant in preparing a plan, delivering community engagement as needed and working with the two services that provide coverage to the Township currently in developing and informing the plan.

Financial Impact

It is anticipated that a consultant's services to deliver a plan will be \$75,000.



Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024 Budget Request Fire Services Master Plan.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 14, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer

Niall Loble, Director of Community Services