

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** City Council  
**Report From:** Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief  
**Meeting Date:** June 26, 2023  
**Report Code:** CR-23-053  
**Subject:** Tiered Response Agreement with County EMS

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### **Recommendations:**

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-23-053 respecting the Tiered Response Agreement between Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Department and the County of Grey Paramedic Service, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement with Grey County.

### **Highlights:**

- Renewal of an existing agreement.
- Agreement to extend tiered medical response to June 2028.
- Tiered medical response service has a minimal financial impact yet has the potential to save a life.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

### **Climate and Environmental Implications:**

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

### **Previous Report/Authority:**

By-law 2018-27 – Tiered Medical Response Agreement

## **Background:**

There has been an agreement between the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services (OSFES) Department and the County of Grey Paramedic Service for several years which has the OSFES Department assisting Grey County Paramedics with medical responses when available. Fire-related responses take precedence over tiered medical responses. OSFES staff will respond to assist paramedics only when available.

## **Analysis:**

This agreement is renewing an existing agreement. The agreement includes response boundaries and the criteria for incidents OSFES staff will respond to. The agreement includes the responsibilities of each party during this agreement and a procedure should the City wish to terminate or alter this agreement. The agreement will extend the tiered medical response for OSFES staff through to June 30, 2028.

Per the Owen Sound Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report, in 2022, OSFES responded to 297 medical incidents, which accounted for 35% of the department's total emergency responses.

Every service the OSFES department provides impacts the City's operating budget to varying degrees. The tiered medical response service has a minimal financial impact at the level the City currently provides yet has the potential to pay huge dividends in the saving of a life.

## **Financial Implications:**

The cost of this agreement will relate to fuel and wear and tear on the OSFES vehicles.

It should be noted there is possible risk associated with additional costs to the City in work-related injuries related to exposures and lifting injuries when responding to medical incidents.

## **Communication Strategy:**

Providing this report to Council.

## **Consultation:**

Kevin McNabb, Director of Paramedic Services, County of Grey

**Attachments:**

Amendment No 1. Tiered Emergency Response Agreement

**Recommended by:**

Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

**Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief at [peagleson@owensound.ca](mailto:peagleson@owensound.ca) or 519-376-2512.