

Town of Whitby

Staff Report

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Report Title: Updates – Emergency Response Automatic Aid Agreement with Ajax Fire & Emergency Services

Report to: Committee of the Whole

Date of meeting: June 10, 2024

Report Number: FES 02-24

Department(s) Responsible:

Fire and Emergency Services

Submitted by:

Fire Chief Michael Hickey

**Acknowledged by M. Gaskell,
Chief Administrative Officer**

For additional information, contact:

Michael Hickey, Fire Chief, ext. 4331

1. Recommendation:

1. That the updated By-law regarding the execution of an Automatic Aid Agreement with the Town of Ajax be presented to Council for approval; and,
2. That the attached agreement (ATT-1) between Ajax Fire & Emergency Services and Whitby Fire & Emergency Services be approved, effective June 19, 2024.

2. Highlights:

- Existing Automatic Aid By-law with the Town of Ajax (April 2016) was updated to ensure language contained within this document is clear and consistent amongst neighbouring municipalities.
- While the language was updated, the existing response zones have not changed.
- Automatic Aid responses are reciprocal, and no fees are to be charged to each municipality for the provision of services.

3. Background:

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, provides for the authority for a municipality to enter into an Automatic Aid Agreement with another municipality. An Automatic Aid Agreement means any agreement under which:

- a municipality agrees to ensure the provision of an initial response to fires, rescues and emergencies that may occur in a part of another municipality where a fire department in the municipality is capable of responding more quickly than any fire department situated in the other municipality; or,
- a municipality agrees to ensure the provision of a supplemental response to fires, rescues and emergencies that may occur in a part of another municipality where a fire department situated in the municipality is capable of providing the quickest supplemental response to fires, rescues and emergencies occurring in the part of the other municipality. 1997, c. 4, s. 1 (4).

4. Discussion:

The existing Automatic Aid By-law with the Town of Ajax was last updated in April 2016.

In 2023, Ajax Fire & Emergency Services updated its' Automatic Aid Agreement with Pickering Fire & Emergency Services. Upon completion of that renewal, Chief Hickey began discussions with the Fire Chief of Ajax; with the appropriate staff groups meeting to review this By-law. The revisions provided updates to the language of the By-law, ensuring consistency of the Automatic Aid agreements between neighbouring fire services (Ajax and Pickering).

While the language updates were to provide clarity and consistency, it is important to note that the response zones have not been changed. The purpose of this agreement, as attached, is to clearly detail the Automatic Aid responses in relation to Highway 401, as well the 412 on ramp from the Highway 401 Eastbound.

Automatic Aid responses are meant to be reciprocal, and no fees are to be charged to each municipality for the provision of services.

For responses on Highway 401, the host municipality submits for cost recovery to the Ministry of Transportation at the rate amended annually by the Ministry of Transportation.

5. Financial Considerations:

There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

As noted above, Automatic Aid responses are reciprocal between municipalities and no fees are to be charged to each municipality for the provision of services.

6. Communication and Public Engagement:

There are no communication and public engagement considerations associated with this report.

7. Input from Departments/Sources:

Partnership with Ajax Fire & Emergency Services.

8. Strategic Priorities:

The recommendation contained in this report advances the following Strategic Pillars and Actions identified in the Town's Community Strategic Plan:

- Whitby's Neighbourhoods – Safe, Healthy, & Inclusive
 - Objective 1.1 – Improve community safety, health, and wellbeing

The Automatic Aid Agreement between Whitby Fire & Emergency Services and Ajax Fire & Emergency Services ensures citizens are receiving fast and efficient emergency response, particularly if the incident occurs on a 400 series highway. Partnerships, such as those outlined in the attached agreement (Attachment 1), continues to ensure public safety is the Town's number one priority.

9. Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Agreement: Ajax & Whitby – Automatic Aid