



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE: February 4, 2025
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
SERVICE AREA: Fire
SUBJECT: Report #FIRE 2025-003 2024 Fire Year in Review

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto hereby receives report FIRE 2025-003 2024 Fire Year in Review, prepared by the Fire Services Management Team, for information purposes.

BACKGROUND

This report is our yearly review for Council's information. It contains call information, staffing information, fire prevention and training activities and other information of note from the fire department. It is intended to keep Council updated on what is occurring with the fire service.

COMMENTS:

In 2024, Minto Fire responded to slightly more incidents than average. As in previous years, there is not a direct reason for the slight uptick. However, it is a trend we believe will continue in the future. We have been informed by our Paramedic counterparts that their call volume will increase by 50% over the next 10 years. This invariably will mean an increase in call volume for us as well.

The growth of our community will also have a factor on our call volume. The more we grow, the more the demands on our fire service will increase. We have had numerous calls in the newer parts of the community showing that we will expect to see an increase. We also can see an increase with the more alarm systems and smoke alarms people put in their houses, which is great from a fire safety perspective, more false alarm activations will be received.

Our retention is still holding strong with firefighter numbers holding steady. We will have to add a later in 2025 to fill some retirement positions but overall are in good shape.

The partnership agreement is working out fantastic. With the increase in management team members with more expertise, we are finally able to see some projects to completion. It is also giving us the opportunity to work more closely with the firefighters and assist them more with their needs. Previously, with only 3 of us, we were stretched too thin and not able to see many projects completed.

Training and fire prevention are seeing some excellent work being carried out. We can follow up with properties after incidents more frequent to ensure the fire safety measures that were recommended are put into place. It also allows us to complete more inspections and move to a little more proactive basis. Training is being ramped up and we saw more 2 and 3 station practices occurring including stations from other departments practicing together with Minto stations. It is allowing us to work better together at scenes and implement the same skills across the board.

We were able to host numerous courses as well as send numerous people to courses either at our home station or one within the partnership. We are bringing a significant number of courses into our own stations so it makes it easier for our firefighters to complete them. All should put us in good shape to meet the mandatory certification deadline in 2026.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

N/A

PREPARED BY: Chris Harrow, Director of Fire Services
Callise Loos, Deputy Director of Fire Services
Marco Guidotti, Deputy Director of Fire Services

RECOMMENDED BY: Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)