

SERVICE

Fire & Rescue Services

Who We Are

The London Fire Department (LFD) responds to various types of fire and other emergency calls, including but not limited to structure fires, car fires, water & ice rescue, motor vehicle collisions in the city and on Highways 401 and 402 and medical events.

What We Do

The LFD contributes towards the prevention of loss of life and injury to citizens and non-residents visiting the City, as well as the reduction of property loss due to fires and natural disasters.

Crews at the 14 fire halls respond to fire and other emergencies in the City. The Communications & Dispatch Centre ensures response is quick and targeted to the nature of the emergency. Staff and equipment are maintained at superior levels of service by the Apparatus and Training Divisions. Further to emergency related calls for service, the LFD also responds to non-emergency events such as open-air burn complaints and carbon monoxide calls. It is important to note many of the firefighters also serve on the Department's specialty teams thereby permitting the LFD to respond to hazardous materials calls, water and ice rescue calls and technical rescue calls, as well as act as backup communication operators, within the existing Fire Fighting Division resources.

\$0.80
per day

for the average ratepayer (2020-2023)

9.32%

of the 2020-2023 City of London Net
 Property Tax Supported Budget

Why We Do It

Mandatory – Section 2(1) (b) of the Fire Prevention and Protection Act (FPPA) requires every municipality to provide such fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

The following table provides an overview of the budget for the service:

Budget Summary (\$000's)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020-2023 TOTAL
Gross Operating Expenditures	\$61,672	\$62,830	\$64,065	\$65,619	\$254,186
Other Revenues	(\$105)	(\$107)	(\$108)	(\$110)	(\$430)
Net Tax Levy Supported Operating Budget	\$61,567	\$62,723	\$63,957	\$65,509	\$253,756
Total Capital Expenditures	\$1,401	\$3,154	\$12,937	\$3,206	\$20,698
Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's)	388.5	388.5	388.5	388.5	

Reflects 2020-2023 Housekeeping Budget Adjustments up to August 31, 2020

The following section provides an overview of the key activities the service plans to undertake from 2020-2023 to implement the Corporation's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, as well as an overview of the risks and challenges the service is anticipated to experience during this period:

Service Highlights 2020-2023

- The Department has several planned capital projects:
 - Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Master Fire Plan to be completed in consultation with consultants in 2020
 - The department continues to monitor high-rise development that continues throughout all response zones causing strain on resources and deployment. To be considered in development of Master Fire Plan.
 - Two sets of bunker gear for all frontline firefighters to enhance firefighter safety – department will be maintaining this throughout 2023;
 - Development and planning of training facility for occupancy in 2024
 - Addition of aerial company in 2022 to be considered in development of Master Fire Plan
 - The department continues to monitor growth in the southeast part of the City, more specifically the residential development east of Summerside subdivision, as well as industrial and institutional growth in Innovation Park with Station 15 construction to be completed in 2022, operational in 2023
 - Life cycle replacement of fire station appliances and equipment built into ongoing capital budget
 - Ongoing replacement of front line and non-front line emergency vehicles
 - Exploring options for Hazmat Deployment and replacement dependant on Master Fire Plan
- After completing an extensive high-level technology review to meet the Department's needs, implementation of ICO technologies software will occur 2019 – 2020 including Fire Prevention, rostering, inventory and GPS modules.
- To promote employee wellness additional training will be provided to all divisions to assist staff with mental health resiliency strategies and overall health initiatives

Risks and Challenges Anticipated in 2020-2023

- The current redeployment plan focuses on maximizing service levels within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The system is being stressed as new growth occurs at the periphery of the UGB. This is particularly the case where high density occupancies are permitted. Notwithstanding the service challenge noted above in the southeast part of the City, should significant growth be permitted in the south or extreme west and southwest, the Department will continue to plan to mitigate these issues based on future growth. Developments are already being approved in areas where response times are extremely strained, but also where no hydrants exist, which is of concern to the Department and will be addressed through the Comprehensive Risk Assessment and Master Fire Plan.
- Fires in high-rise buildings require a greater complement of firefighters than do smaller residential occupancies. With an increase in the number of high-rises, particularly at the periphery of the UGB, a resource review is required to explore the need for an additional aerial and staffing. In anticipation, an additional aerial company is included within the 10-year capital plan.
- In 2014, the Province recognized several new cancers within its presumptive legislation to be introduced in 2014 to 2017, inclusive. Lung cancer was added in 2016 and skin cancer will be added in 2017. These changes have the potential to add millions of dollars to the WSIB component of the budget in the short term, as well as going forward. It should be noted that in 2016 the Province also recognized Post Traumatic Syndrome Disorder (PTSD).

The service directly supports the following components of the Corporation's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan:

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY							
Outcome: Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city.							
Expected Result	Strategy	Metric	Target				
			2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Increase neighbourhood safety	Improve emergency response through the development and implementation of the Fire Master Plan and new technology. (SOC-39)	Additional metrics to be determined through the development of the Fire Master Plan (2021)	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD

For more information:

Other Reference Information

LFD Website: <https://london.ca/living-london/community-services/fire-emergency-services/london-fire-department>

Contact

- Lori Hamer, Fire Chief
- 519-661-2489, Extension 4785
- lhamer@london.ca