

Date: 13 May 2026

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Moved By: Deputy Mayor Netty McEwen

Seconded By: Councillor John van Klaveren

Support for Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

WHEREAS Municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the province through statutes, regulations, codes, and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operational requirements;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately **70–75% of firefighters in Ontario**, protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently **the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services**;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services, receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;

AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to **transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program** that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for **operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario**;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement to:

- The County of Lambton
- Lambton County Fire Chiefs Association
- All municipalities
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association

AND FURTHER THAT, upon endorsement, this resolution be submitted to:

- Steve Pinnsoneault MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
- Bob Bailey MPP Sarnia-Lambton
- The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

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Carried

Defeated

Deferred