



CITY OF LANGLEY

COUNCIL MEMBER MOTION

Additional suppression firefighters in each annual budget from 2023-2026 – Councillor Solyom

THAT Staff include at least two full-time suppression firefighters in the 2023 budget, at least three full-time suppression firefighters in the 2024 budget, at least two full-time suppression firefighters in the 2025 budget, and at least two full-time suppression firefighters in the 2026 budget for Council to consider.

Background

Langley City has one of the busiest fire halls in Metro Vancouver, responding to over 3,800 calls for service in 2022. Similar-sized communities such as White Rock only respond to 1,800 calls, and Port Moody 1,700 calls annually.

Langley City has grown from about 25,000 people in 2011 to 29,000 in 2021. With SkyTrain coming, our population and calls for emergency service will continue to grow. Our fire service has not kept pace with population growth, and we must prepare for the arrival of SkyTrain.

Langley City currently has 23 full-time suppression members budgeted, leading to roughly 165 calls per member annually. Port Moody with 40 full time firefighters faces roughly 42 calls per member annually. This level of workload has been shown to increase the likelihood of burnout, and mental health challenges. Cities with high average workloads often have multiple stations and can rotate members to less busy stations. Langley City has one station and thus cannot do this.

The Langley City Fire Rescue service currently utilizes an Engine (requiring a minimum of 4 members) and a Rescue Truck (requiring a minimum of 2 members). Due to current staffing levels, the Rescue Truck is only operational 25% of the time (Tuesdays to Fridays, during the day). This presents a risk to the people of Langley City if larger incidents or multiple calls happen the other 75% of the time.

Langley City is currently performing an operational review of the fire service. This motion speaks to the base level increase of suppression firefighters. It is not intended to limit any further increases in staff levels as may be recommended in the operational review.