



**March 25th, 2025**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**To: Kyle Attanasio, CAO**

**Fr: Gord Howard, Fire Chief**

**Re: Kenora Fire & Emergency Services – Q4 Report**

### **Recommendation:**

That Council hereby receives the 2024 Fourth Quarter Report for Fire & Emergency Services.

### **Background:**

As part of the planning process, Administration seeks and receives Council's approval on operating and capital budgets in any given year. To provide Council with an update on progress towards achieving these goals, the following report has been created.

The City of Kenora Fire and Emergency Services (CKFES) produces quarterly updates for Council that provide information and statistics on staffing levels, call volumes, response times, significant incidents, fire prevention and training initiatives.

### **Focus Area 3 – Community Recreation, Well-Being, and Safety**

#### **Goal 3.2A – Address Community Safety Challenges and Improve Perceptions of Safety in Kenora:**

The City of Kenora Fire & Emergency Services hosted a successful Fire Prevention Week Open House on October 8th at Station 1. This event provided an opportunity for the community to engage with our firefighters, learn about fire safety, and experience interactive demonstrations.

We extend our sincere thanks to the public for attending and making this event a success.

Special appreciation goes to Mayor and Council for their participation.

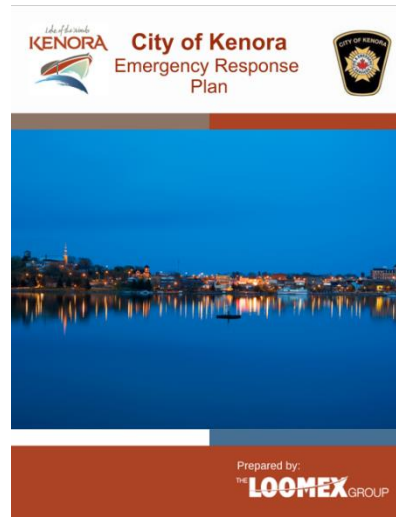


2024 Fire Prevention Week Open house

**Goal 3.2B – Enhance Emergency Management, Protective Services and Social Services provided by City Partners**

The City of Kenora's updated Municipal Emergency Response Plan was approved. This updated plan ensures that the City remains well-prepared to respond to emergencies, aligning with best practices and legislative requirements.

The revised plan enhances coordination among emergency response partners, improves communication strategies, and strengthens overall community resilience.



Emergency Response Plan Prepared by LOOMEX



Tanker 1 Chassis

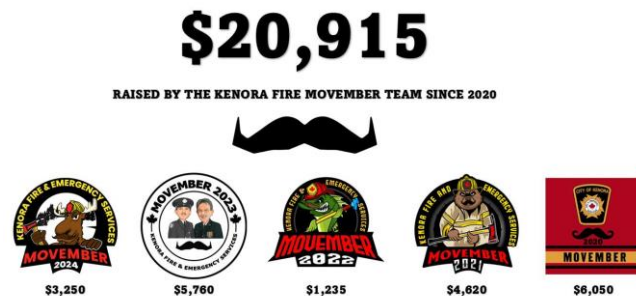
Fort Garry Fire Trucks has received the chassis for the City of Kenora's new Tanker 1 and has officially begun the build process.

The new Tanker 1 will enhance our ability to deliver water supply in areas without hydrant access, improving firefighting operations across the city and surrounding areas.

We appreciate Council's support in this important investment for community safety.

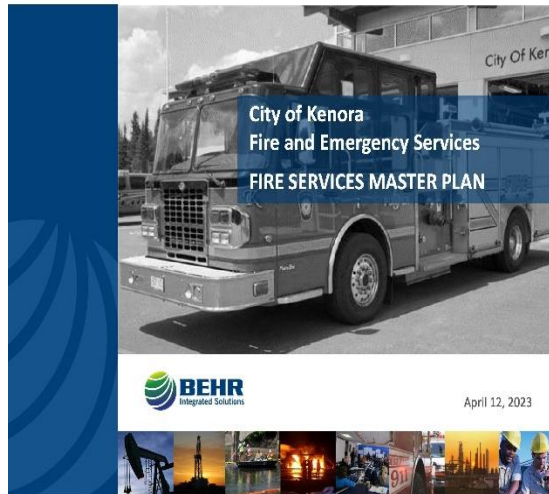
The Kenora Fire Movember team raised \$3,250 bringing their impressive five-year total to \$20,915 in support of men's health initiatives.

The team would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make a difference this year—whether by growing a mustache, donating to the cause, or engaging in important conversations about men's health.



Amount Raised by the Movember Team Since 2020

### Goal 3.2B - 3.2.4. Develop a “Fire Department Master Plan”



Fire Services Master Plan

Mayor & Council approved the new Establishing & Regulating By-Law.

The updated E&R By-Law provides clear governance for fire protection services, enhancing operational efficiency and community safety. This approval marks a significant step in strengthening our fire service’s framework to meet current and future needs.

We appreciate Council’s support in advancing this important initiative.

### Focus Area 4 – Service Delivery and Organizational Capacity

#### Goal 4.4 – Enhance City communications to the community on municipal services, developments, and affairs

Kenora Fire & Emergency Services is currently conducting NFPA 1001 Level 1 training for our recruit firefighters.

The training is a key element of our commitment to ensuring our team is well-equipped to handle emergency situations effectively and safely.

We are proud of the recruits’ progress and their dedication to becoming skilled members of the department.



Recruits training on PPE and SCBA



The crew with the Resilient Minds’ instructors

The City of Kenora Fire & Emergency Services partnered with the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Kenora to deliver two Resilient Minds training courses for our firefighters.

Resilient Minds is a nationally recognized program designed to strengthen first responders’ mental health resilience, providing tools to manage stress, recognize signs of mental health challenges, and support their peers.

## Staffing Levels

|  | Q 1       | Q2        | Q3        | Q4        | 2023      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Full Time Staff  | 14        | 14        | 13        | 13        | 14        |
| Live-in Paid-per-Call Firefighters                         | 0         | 2         | 4         | 4         | 0         |
| Paid-per-Call Firefighters                                 | 15        | 16        | 24        | 24        | 18        |
| Recruit Paid-per-Call Firefighters                         | 11        | 10        | 10        | 10        | 12        |
| Total Paid-per-Call Firefighters                           | 26        | 26        | 34        | 34        | 30        |
| <b>Total Personnel<br/>(Full Time &amp; Paid-per-Call)</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>44</b> |

## Call Volume by Types

| Call Type                                    | Q1        | Q2         | Q3         | Q4         | 2024 Total | 2023 Total |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Fire Alarm Activations / Pre Fire Conditions | 29        | 27         | 23         | 23         | 102        | 137        |
| No Loss Outdoor Fires                        | 2         | 7          | 3          | 7          | 19         | 30         |
| Open Air Burning Complaints                  | 2         | 9          | 13         | 13         | 37         | 39         |
| Public Hazard – Leaks, Power Wires           | 7         | 11         | 13         | 9          | 40         | 33         |
| Medical First Response                       | 14        | 25         | 22         | 29         | 90         | 65         |
| Fires  | 4         | 9          | 0          | 4          | 17         | 26         |
| Motor Vehicle Collisions                     | 6         | 8          | 17         | 14         | 45         | 44         |
| Other / Cancelled on Route                   | 6         | 4          | 7          | 11         | 28         | 30         |
| Human Perceived Emergencies                  | 10        | 10         | 19         | 20         | 59         | 30         |
| Carbon Monoxide False Alarms                 | 7         | 1          | 4          | 13         | 25         | 24         |
| Rescues – Elevator / Water                   | 7         | 3          | 5          | 6          | 21         | 17         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                           | <b>94</b> | <b>114</b> | <b>126</b> | <b>149</b> | <b>481</b> | <b>475</b> |

## Firefighter Turnout & Response Times to the 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile

| Statistics                                      | Q1   | Q2   | Q3   | Q4   | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Average number of firefighters (Upgraded)       | 12.7 | 13.5 | 7.6  | 13.1 | 12.9 | 9.7  |
| Average response time for First Apparatus       | 8:01 | 7:17 | 7:34 | 8:01 | 7:43 | 8:12 |
| Time of First defibrillator to medical patients | 5:52 | 5:44 | 5:33 | 6:05 | 5:52 | 5:59 |

## Significant Incidents

- October 12th: Firefighters responded to an incident involving an 8-year-old female trapped in a swing seat. After unsuccessful attempts to manipulate the seat for release, a decision was made to cut one side of the seat to safely extricate the child.
- October 25th: A call was received for a person trapped under an ATV. Firefighters quickly attended the scene, successfully extricating the patient and providing assistance to EMS for further care.
- November 7th: A structure fire was reported, observed by neighbors. Upon arrival, smoke was visible on the back side of the building. Firefighters deployed an attack line, made entry, and extinguished the fire, which was contained to its area of origin. A search confirmed no occupants were inside.
- November 25th: A multi-vehicle collision involving three semi-trucks, with reports of victims and a fire, was attended by the department. Upon arrival, three semi-cabs and one trailer were fully involved in fire. One deceased driver was located down an embankment and extricated after confirmation by OPP. A second deceased driver was found near another truck. Fire suppression efforts were conducted, and the department assisted OPP with the removal of the deceased. The Ministry of Environment (MOE) was contacted by Deputy Hupe due to hazardous runoff from firefighting efforts and truck fluids entering the Winnipeg River.
- December 21st: Firefighters responded to a structure fire. Upon arrival, heavy smoke was observed emanating from the side of the building. A hose line was deployed, and firefighters advanced to the second floor to begin fire attack. A 360-degree assessment was conducted, confirming the fire was contained to a bedroom on the corner of the second-floor unit. A search was completed, and the fire was knocked down. To prevent fire extension, additional efforts included opening the gable end and pulling down the ceiling to check for any further spread. The fire was successfully contained to the original area.



MVC Highway 17A



Structure Fire

## **Training Initiatives**

The Third quarter of 2024 saw CKFES complete a variety of training. Firefighters completed approximately 218 hours towards training covering the following content:

- Firefighter Safety
- Firefighter Health & Wellness
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Search and Rescue
- Forcible Entry
- Hoses & Appliances
- Fire Streams
- Rapid Intervention Training
- Pre-Planning
- Pumper Operations
- Ventilation
- Communications
- Incident Command
- CPR Recertification



Staff entering the Smoke Trailer during Training

## **Fire Prevention Activities**

During the 4th quarter of 2024, CKFES completed 10 Occupancy Inspections and various re-inspections, also reviewing and approving Fire Safety Plans.

CKFES also completed Public and Life Safety Education events including:

- Fire Safety Presentation at St. Thomas Aquinas
- Fire Safety Presentation at Valleyview School
- Fire Drill at Beaver Brae Secondary School
- Touch a Truck at St. John Paul School
- Trunk or Treat at Rideout Community Club.
- Fire Drill at Wiigwas Elder and Senior Care
- Fire extinguisher training with staff from Ultramar at 1030 Railway Street
- Fire Safety Information Session for the Residents at Pinecrest Home for the Age



Mayor Poirier With Sparky

## **Other Activities**

- Deputy Hupe attended Emergency Management Ontario's Fall Sector Meeting in Thunder Bay and was elected as Co-Chair for the Amythest Sector
- Deputy Hupe attended the Emergency North Training Annual General Meeting and was re-elected to the Board of Directors as Vice-President
- Kenora Fire & Emergency Services hosted an information session on the 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge partnering with "Take Action Radon"
- Deputy Hupe and Captain Bichon attended OPP Inspector Matt Norlock's Memorial Service in Red Lake
- Kenora Fire Services Entertainment Committee hosted its annual Firefighter's Ball at the Ukrainian Hall
- Deputy Hupe attended the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Annual General Meeting and Various Committee meetings in Niagara Falls



2024 Fire Prevention Week Open House

## **Strategic Plan or other Guiding Document:**

### Strategic Plan

Goal 3.2(b) Enhance emergency management, protective services, and social services provided by City partners.

Goal 4.4 Enhance City communications to the community on municipal services, developments, and affairs

### Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997

Fire chief, municipalities

6 (1) If a fire department is established .... the council of the municipality ... shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Responsibility to council

6 (3) A fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to the council of a municipality that appointed him or her for the delivery of fire protection services.