

COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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6. OTTAWA FIRE SERVICES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ACS2018-EPS-GEN-0004

CITY WIDE

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**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend that Council receive this report for information.**

Prior to the discussion on the report before Committee, Chair Deans gave a brief statement in praise of Chief Pingitore who is retiring from service with the City of Ottawa. Chief Pingitore has devoted more than 40 years to fire services. He has served as the Fire Chief for the past three years. He has shown solid leadership in moving the service forward in the ever-changing field of firefighting. The service has adopted new technologies, including the automatic vehicle routing recommendation project and mobile data terminals, to better serve residents.

She thanked Chief Pingitore for all of the outstanding work he has done keeping our residents safe throughout his career and extended best wishes to the Chief in his retirement.

Anthony Di Monte, General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services also thanked the Chief and introduced him and Chief Kim Ayotte who would give a PowerPoint presentation.

A copy of their presentation is held on file with the City Clerk's office.

The Committee heard from the following delegation:

John Sobey – Ottawa Professional Fire Fighters Association – Thanked and

acknowledged Chief Pingitore and the good relations between the association, President Kennedy and senior staff. He stressed the value in good training.

The Committee members then had the following questions or comments:

- Many members were concerned with the number of false alarms and the impact that could have on actual emergency calls. Chief Ayotte stated that there are stiff penalties for false alarms and many are coming from older buildings with older equipment. The force is discussing solutions to this dilemma.
- The number of medical calls are up as well but the same can be said for the Paramedic service. This is growth within the City and does not impact fire calls.
- There was praise from members on Camp FFIT, a week long firefighting, leadership day-camp for young women between the ages of 15 and 19.
- The Education program for the Fire Services has been impressive.
- Has the service looked at a by-law regarding false alarms as many municipalities have done? The service has looked at the possibility and is reviewing again and a draft by-law will be coming to Committee in the first quarter of 2019. The fear with a by-law is that some building owners may disconnect the alarm system completely.
- Automatic Vehicle Routing Recommendation Project uses electronic mapping technology, real data road speeds, GPS, and in-vehicle Mobile Data Terminals to ensure that the closest OFS vehicle is dispatched to an emergency. This will be a plus for rural service.
- Peer support within the service has been very important and the mental health of the fire fighters is of great priority.

The report was then put to Committee and RECEIVED as presented.