

**DATE:** December 9, 2024  
**REPORT NO:** WLFD-15-2024  
**SUBJECT:** **Monthly Update – November 2024**  
**CONTACT:** Tim Hofsink

**OVERVIEW:**

- This report will address November 2024 fire responses and activities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That, Information Report WLFD-15-2024 titled “Monthly Update – November 2024” dated December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be received for information.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Theme # 1 and # 4**

- **Build** – a safe, connected, caring and active community
- **Advance** – organizational capacity and effectiveness

**CURRENT SITUATION:**

**Emergency responses Calls:** See Attached Schedule "A" for November's calls. The fiscal year for West Lincoln Fire ended October 31. Total calls amounted to 295 at Station 1 and 82 at Station 2.

**New Recruits:**

Recruit candidate interviews were completed. West Lincoln Fire has received a very healthy response in applications from members of the community interested in joining the Fire Service. Vacancies that have accumulated over the past two years will be filled with the commencement of the next recruit class beginning January 2025. An additional step has been added to our recruit process. Successful interview candidates attended a third party test centre on November 16<sup>th</sup>. There they were tested for physical capabilities as well as resiliency, acrophobia and aptitude. This vital addition to our recruit selection process will allow us to obtain a more complete picture of a candidate before committing to taking them into our training program.

**Promotions:** No promotions

**Station # 2 Progress:**

Work is continuing at Station 2 regarding the outstanding warranty items. The Station is fully occupied and is functioning well. Some items are still in progress, with work continuing on the internet cabling, HVAC system and floors.

**Training**

Ongoing weekly training took place, including training on What 3 Words, Communications, Remote Patient Packaging, and Rapid Intervention Team. Crews also held an auto extrication training using a vehicles donated by VnR Recycling. These applied learning classes are very important in ensuring that crews have received practical experience in dealing with situations that they will face while responding to emergency calls. We highly value the relationships with businesses and members of our community that support our training and emergency preparation efforts.

A large group of firefighters participated in a ‘Resilient Minds’ training class. The focus of this course was Critical Incident Stress Management highlighting the importance of mental health of First Responders, helping them to be better equipped to handle the stress of emergency calls. Firefighters are exposed to both physical and stress hazards while responding to emergency calls. Traumatic stress is a real and dangerous threat to the mental wellness of firefighters and other first responders. West Lincoln is coordinating a variety of training and other supports to ensure that West Lincoln’s firefighters are well protected, both physically and mentally for this important work.

Preparations by the Training Department for the upcoming recruit intake have been underway for some weeks, entailing development of the Training Schedule and scheduling instructors for each of the training sessions spanning the recruit program-approximately eight months in length.

HAZMAT Testing date was established for February and March, 2025 for our Firefighters who had completed the training program earlier in 2024.

**Fire Prevention**

Annual Fire Inspections were conducted at various large commercial and industrial complexes.

**Apparatus Fleet**

Work on Tanker 2 is continuing. This truck is the second tanker of two tankers approved by Council. Final inspection will take place in New Brunswick by several Fire Services staff once the construction has been completed. Delivery of the vehicle his anticipated over the next month or two, pending approval during the final inspection.

**Fire Services Activities**

Chief Fisher has gone on leave, Deputy Chief Hofsink has been appointed Acting Fire

Chief and has appointed two Officers as Acting Deputy Chiefs (Captain Wayne Bos) and (Captain Zoli Rakonjac) in his absence.

The Public Education team did a fire safety presentation at the Wellandport Reformed Church.

The annual Emergency Management Training and Exercise was conducted for the Township's Emergency Operation Centre Team. The focus of the exercise this year was on cyber security, specifically training on business continuity and a presentation from the IT Division about organizational cyber security.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications with this report.

**INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:**

N/A

**CONCLUSION:**

This report is to inform Committee and Council of the November 2024 operations of West Lincoln Fire and Emergency Services.

**Prepared & Submitted by:**

Tim Hofsink  
**Acting Fire Chief**

**Approved by,**

Truper McBride  
**CAO**