

DATE: May 20, 2025
REPORT NO: WLFD-04-2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Update – April 2025
CONTACT: Tim Hofsink, Fire Chief

OVERVIEW:

- This report will address April 2025 fire responses and activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, Information Report WLFD-04-2025 titled “Monthly Update – April 2025” dated May 20, 2025, 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 April's calls.

New Recruits:

Recruit class is actively training every Monday evening, Wednesday evening and one weekend per month. The class is being prepared to begin to ride trucks to emergency medical calls. They are also preparing for their first Live Fire Training at the Training tower at the GRTC in Grimsby. Our recruit firefighters are making excellent progress and remain on track to achieve their official accreditation by June. Their dedication is essential to maintaining our department's high professional standards and to developing a team of certified, skilled firefighters who are fully prepared to serve the residents of West Lincoln with professionalism and excellence.

Retirement: Chief Dennis Fisher retired after 32 years of Fire Service and 18 years as Fire Chief. He retired from active service on April 25th.

Promotions: After holding Deputy Chief position for 6.5 years, Tim Hofsink has accepted the position of Fire Chief on April 25th.

Training

Throughout April, the Training Division has placed a strong emphasis on enhancing our auto extrication capabilities. Firefighters have committed extensive hours to training with our newly acquired lifting bags—vital tools in technical rescue operations. These low-pressure inflatable devices are designed to lift heavy loads such as vehicles, machinery, or debris in a controlled and secure manner. Their effectiveness in tight or unstable environments makes them indispensable during motor vehicle collisions and other complex rescue scenarios. Given West Lincoln's agricultural landscape, lifting bags also serve a crucial role in farm-related emergencies. From freeing individuals trapped under heavy equipment to stabilizing large machinery, these tools significantly improve our capacity to respond rapidly and safely in high-risk rural incidents.

In addition to incorporating lifting bags into realistic training scenarios, our crews continue to sharpen their skills with existing extrication equipment. We would like to recognize and thank V&R Recycling for their continued support, generously donating vehicles and providing the space needed to facilitate these essential training exercises at no cost to the township.

Fire Prevention: Fire Inspections for LLBO license for JJ Thai's, as well as annual Inspection at V&R Recycling.

Public Education

Members of the Public Education Division met with the Town Communication specialist to discuss a public safety messaging opportunity related to a recent house fire. Residents were alerted to the presence of a fire and safely evacuated the residence. Plans are being put in place to make a video which will highlight the importance of working smoke alarms, and will involve members of the PubEd Team.

Public Education group also supported St. Luke's Anglican church with volunteering at a breakfast on April 12, sharing some public education messages while maintaining positive community involvement.

The PubEd members also attended the Township Easter festivities at the West Lincoln Community Centre, providing tours of the apparatus, handed out Easter eggs and engaged with the public with fire safety messaging, maintaining good visibility in the Township events.

Apparatus Fleet

The newly acquired tanker for Station 2 has had all the decals and lettering completed and is being prepared for service. Next steps include ensuring all drivers/operators are properly trained on the vehicle. Once this minimum number of hours of driver training

has been completed, the truck will enter service at Station 2.

Work on outfitting the newly purchased Pumper from Fort Garry in Winnipeg is progressing. Finalizing the equipment and layout is well underway, with delivery anticipated late spring/early summer. The unit was a “stock pumper”, meaning that some of the items of the truck will need to be configured to ensure compatibility with the equipment and procedures of West Lincoln Fire.

Thanks to Council for their continued support of the Department in ensuring that West Lincoln Firefighters and members of the community are receiving top level equipment to match the skills of our firefighters.

Fire Services Activities

In April West Lincoln Fire celebrated their Annual Fire Awards Banquet. This event is held to acknowledge the hard work and dedication our Fire Fighters deliver all year long. This year we celebrated Captain Mike Perry reaching 20 years of Fire Service, Captain Zoli Rakonjac reaching 15 years, as well as two Captains Corey Simon and Dave McCausland reaching 10 years of service with WLFD. We were happy to have the Mayor and CAO in attendance. We also celebrated the retirement of our long serving Chief Dennis Fisher and Welcomed our present Chief Tim Hofsink into his new role.

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 April 2025 operations of West Lincoln Fire and Emergency Services.

Prepared & Submitted by:

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Fire Chief

Approved by:

Cynthia Summers
**Director of Community and
Protective Services**

Truper McBride
CAO