

Staff Report

Presented By: Ed Melanson, Fire Chief
Meeting Date: January 26, 2026
Subject: Preferred New Fire Station Location
Attachment(s): Response Time Analytics
Preliminary Site location with Satellite Overlay

Recommendation

That Council approve the preferred location for a new Port Elgin Fire Station at 1240 Mackenzie Road.

Report Summary

An initial location report was delivered to Council on August 11, 2025, which received feedback with regards to revisiting new and present locations due to concerns over the proximity to Saugeen District Senior School. The location of 1240 Mackenzie Road, Port Elgin, is presented for Council's consideration as the preferred location in advance of design and engineering scheduled for 2026.

Background/Analysis

As a Future Year Highlight in the 2025 Business Plan, Council considered and approved design and engineering of a new Fire Station as a Major Initiative to advance in 2026 followed by the build in 2027 / 2028. Seven million has been included in the Future Infrastructure Special Levy. A data-driven approach was utilized and focused on firefighter response times ensuring robust service coverage for all residents. Six locations were considered, and four locations were further evaluated and chosen for detailed consideration:

- 640 Mill Creek Road
- 1240 Mackenzie Road
- 612 Emma Sreet
- 584 Bruce Street

The following criteria was considered to determine a recommended site:

- Firefighter's Residential location. (Removed outlying firefighters addresses to realize accurate response percentages)
- 10-minute response zone- the travel time from each firefighter's pager activation to fire station to arrival at incident scene.
- Property owned by Municipality to maintain budgetary adherence.
- Environmental impact.
- Property size allowing for firefighter parking, Ministry of Labour Cancer Prevention checklist requirements, pull through truck bays, and administration offices.
- Surrounding land use impact

The Fire Station Replacement report was referred due to the close proximity to Saugeen District Secondary School. After evaluation, 1240 Mackenzie Road is recommended as a more suitable location for Port Elgin Station for the following reasons:

- Reasonable response times
- Limited impact to surrounding land use
- Access to Wellington Street and Concession 10
- Timely access to future extensions of Waterloo Street and Bruce Street at access population concentration
- No impact to present surrounding land use operations during construction
- No impact to emergency fire department response during construction

Next steps include confirming the location and traffic impacts through the updating of the Town's Transportation Masterplan (2026) as the current Plan anticipated the potential to extend Wellington Street directly to Concession 10 through this land holding.

For Council's information, the firefighter response modelling and land parcel location situated on Mackenzie Drive for consideration are attached. Within the parcel location, there is an overlay of present residential and institutional buildings for reference.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: Fire Services Major Initiative

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

Prepared By: Ed Melanson, Fire Chief

Reviewed By: Mark Paoli, Director, Development Services

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer