

Staff Report

Presented By: Ed Melanson, Director, Fire Services
 Meeting Date: February 23, 2026
 Subject: Changes to the Fire Department Establishing & Regulatory By-law
 Attachment(s): By-law 25-2023 with Redline Revisions

Recommendation

That Council approve the proposed changes to By-law 25-2023, and direct that an updated By-law return for approval.

Report Summary

Section 21 (d) of Bylaw 25-2023 Fire Department Establishing & Regulatory By-law states that the By-law will be periodically reviewed respecting changes to service levels, legislation, or National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This report outlines the recommended minor changes and requests the approval of a By-law to make the necessary changes. The amending By-law will be added to a subsequent Council Meeting agenda for adoption.

Background/Analysis

The following table defines the changes for Council’s consideration. There may need to be renumbering within the Bylaw once changes are approved considering some recommendations include the removal of whole articles.

Bylaw Location	Present Wording	Recommended Wording	Reason
New	----	Boat Rescue means fire department boat and/or Town owned boat not to exceed 3500 m (3.5 km) from shore and within the town boundaries extrapolated into Lake Huron.	New rescue vessel
Article 1 (m)	“NFPA 1072 ...	“NFPA 470....	NFPA Standard Update

Article 1 (s)	Nearshore definition	Remove	New rescue vessel
Article 1 (t)	Offshore definition	Remove	New rescue vessel
Article B.1.5	"...to NFPA 1143, standard..."	Add "... to NFPA 1143 Chapter 7, standard..."	Clarity
Article B.1.18	.."NFPA 472..."	..."NFPA 470	New Standard Update
Article B.1.19 (a)	"...operations level..."	"...technician level..."	Rescuers certified
Article B.1.19 (a) (b)(c)	"..., and near shore boat rescue operations."	"..., water entry, boat rescue operations."	Removed near shore and offshore definition
Article B.1.19 (e)	"Recovery services to retrieve..."	Rescue and/or recovery services to retrieve..."	Clarification to entry on water or ice
Article B.1.21	"... Awareness Level, and Operations Level..."	"...Awareness level, where..."	Not certified in Rope Rescue Technician or Operations
Article B.1.22	"... Awareness Level, and Operations Level..."	"...Awareness level, where..."	Not certified in Trench Rescue Technician or Operations
Article B.1.23	"... Awareness Level, and Operations Level..."	"...Awareness level, where..."	Not certified in Confined Space Technician or Operations
Article B.7.2 (b)	"...of fire station infrastructure."	"...of fire station and training facilities infrastructure."	Addition of Centre of Excellence Training Grounds

Linkages

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

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

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Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer