Fire Master Plan approves full-time staffing at HQ by March

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The recently approved 2014 Fire Services Master Plan recommends implementing full-time 24/7 emergency response at the headquarters station at the corner of Eighth Line and 10 Sideroad.

The Plan endorsed by Council also calls for the continual hiring on average of two full-time fire department staff members a year through 2031—to be confirmed in the Town's budget annually.

Fire Chief Brent Marshall said if the department receives approval to hire two full-time firefighters in the Town's 2015 operating budget 24/7 full-time coverage at the station could be in place as early as March.

"They will be responsible for calls throughout the community," said Marshall. "The level of service was always

Highline model shown

good, always at a very acceptable level, now all we're doing is just enhancing it."

Currently HHFD is a composite department with 28 full-time firefighters and 96 part-time.

"It is a very efficient model," said Marshall, adding it will continue well into the foreseeable future as long as it continues to enable the department to deliver an efficient, effective service and an acceptable level of service.

Other recommendations in the

Plan include:

- investigating using the Fire Marshal's new Integrated Risk Management (IRM) web tool to assess the public education and prevention and inspection programs
- · continuing to monitor community response to open air burning and, as necessary, review the program
- continuing to monitor and assess the dispatch performance of the Communications Division
- · putting in place one Assistant Deputy Chief in 2015 as an interim step to address the impending retirements of senior staff
- · working with Town departments and partners to secure property to establish a forecasted fourth fire station in the Hornby area
- · review risks from railways and climate change and identify opportunities to enhance emergency preparedness and response protocol.



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