

companies who pay low wages and have high staff turnover.

Another possibility is to use Owen Sound. It is contracting for emergency call out services.

One option that will not be considered is a local call out centre. Chief Northrup explained that a local centre would need to be manned 24/7. It's just not feasible to pay for those salaries when there is less than a call a day. According to Cramahe Township Treasurer Mora Chatterson, Cramahe paid \$7,143 in 2012 for the service provided by Port Hope.

The Northumberland County 2013 Clerk's Business Plan and Budget states that the Cobourg Police Services Board is considering the cost of handling the fire calls for the entire county. Cobourg Fire Chief Al Mann is also the County Fire Coordinator. Three years ago he recommended the construction of a \$2 million purpose-built county-wide dispatch centre. The proposed centre would eliminate black holes in fire radio coverage and paging transmissions, address various local difficulties with dispatching fire personnel, and alleviate channel congestion. The idea didn't fly.

A year ago Chief Mann was cautiously optimistic that a central dispatch might still be established, albeit, not in a purpose-built centre. In the online magazine *FirefightinginCanada* he expressed the likelihood that any such service would be provided by the Cobourg Police Department.

Chief Northrup gave Cramahe residents his assurance that the call times will not change, regardless of who is handling the calls.

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