



Administrative Report

Office of the Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS

To: Warden McNamara and Members of Essex County Council

From: Bruce Krauter
Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Date: Wednesday, May 04, 2022

Subject: Land Ambulance Cross Border Billing between County of Essex and Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Report #: 2022-0504-EMS-R003-BK

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council with an update on the current practice of cross border land ambulance use between the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the County of Essex. In addition, Administration is recommending the rescinding of [By-Law 35-2013](#) and seeking approval to Execute a Mutual Aid Agreement between both municipalities for the provision of land ambulance services and the respective cost recovery.

Background

The County of Essex and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent share a border and have historically utilized each other's EMS resources for areas within the coverage zones of the EMS stations along that border. In the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Tilbury Station normally services the areas of Lakeshore and northern Leamington. In the County of Essex, the Leamington Station normally services Chatham-Kent, specifically the Village of Wheatley and former Romney Township. This arrangement has been in place since the Province downloaded Land Ambulance services to the County and is outlined in the deployment plans of each of the services. Compensation to each municipality for cross border responses is governed by the Land Ambulance Cross Border Agreement, as approved by Essex County Council through Bylaw 35-2013. Reconciliation of the costs associated with the Cross-Border Agreement are to be completed annually.

Resource utilization or station location is determined by the Municipality and deployment design is developed in consultation with the individual services and the associated Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC). Response Time Performance is regulated under the Response Time Performance Standard and approved by each individual Municipality's Council.

Discussion

On May 17, 2017 Essex County Council received the informational report [2017-R003-EMS-0517-BK](#) (Page 102 of May 17, 2017 Agenda) in relation to the performance of cross border land ambulance use. At that time the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Land Ambulance Services was under the guidance and oversight of the Fire Chief, with delegation to a Deputy Fire Chief. During this time period there were long standing discussions about the cross-border billing, the measurement tools, the data utilized and the process for calculations. Due to the complexity of those discussions, agreement of cost recovery and reconciliation were never formalized or finalized. In the fall of 2017 the senior administration of Chatham-Kent Fire transitioned to a new Chief and Deputy Chief.

In discussions with the current Chatham-Kent Fire Service Administration, the opinion that the best use of resources is to develop a Mutual Aid Agreement and to rescind By Law 35-2013.

In review of the land ambulance cross border data from 2018 to 2021 it is found that the variance of calls is minimal.

Cross Border Counts	2018	2019	2020	2021
EWEMS to C-K	262	222	188	209
CK to Essex	311	119	197	201
Variance	-49	103	-9	8

Essex Windsor EMS and Chatham-Kent Emergency Services have an excellent working relationship since 2017. A most recent example of the relationship and collaboration is the Wheatley explosion of August 2021. This incident saw a combined force of over twenty (20) EMS resources deployed in a short amount of time to service a community that lies on our border but is serviced by both organizations.

From the inception of Bylaw 35-2013 until 2017's discussions, the usual practice was for both municipalities to review the data, determine the validity and determine a financial impact for either side. From the data provided, the return of investment for the staff hours to compile and reconcile was negligible to non-existent.

The conclusion by both administrations is to develop and execute a Cross Border Land Ambulance Mutual Aid Agreement that would express that there would be no service fees for emergency responses into one another's municipal jurisdiction with the exception of:

- (i) An emergency response into the other municipalities jurisdiction which would require an upstaffing of an additional ambulance(s) for a prolonged period of time.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are negligible to non-existent by both municipalities. Any cost recovery may have the potential to be out weighed by the costs to reconcile and compile the data. The Agreement would be a potential cost savings from the previous EMS Cross Border Billing Agreement (By-Law).

Consultations

The following persons have been consulted in the preparation of this Report:

- Mary Birch, Clerk
- Sandra Zwiers, Treasurer
- David Sundin, Solicitor
- Chris Case, Fire Chief, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report 2022-0504-EMS-R003-BK, and endorse the recommendation to adopt a by-law, authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute a Cross Border Land Ambulance Mutual Aid Agreement between the County of Essex and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and rescind Bylaw 35-2013 immediately following the said Cross Border Land Ambulance Mutual Aid Agreement being executed.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Krauter

Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Concurred With,

Mike Galloway

Mike Galloway, MBA, CMO, Chief Administrative Officer