



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Subject: Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs Conference - 2027

Report #: 2026-0218-EMS-R01-JL

Purpose

To provide information to Essex County Council on the 2027 Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Leadership Conference.

Background

Essex-Windsor EMS is a member of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, and Chief Justin Lammers currently serves as the Southwest Zone representative on the Board of Directors. OAPC represents the leadership of all 57 Designated Delivery Agents (DDAs) responsible for Paramedic Services across Ontario, including regional, county, and municipal governments, as well as District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs). Membership also includes ORNGE and seven (7) First Nations Emergency Medical Services.

Each year, OAPC hosts its Annual General Meeting and Leadership Conference at rotating venues across the province. This event brings together Paramedic Services leadership from every DDA, along with speakers, vendors, and visitors from across North America and internationally. The conference is traditionally held during the third week of September and was previously hosted at Caesars Windsor in 2015 and 2019.

The conference program highlights key issues affecting the delivery of Paramedic Services and showcases emerging trends, technologies, and best practices in system design, leadership, and clinical innovation. The event concludes with the Annual Awards Gala, which recognizes recipients of the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal, an honour primarily awarded

to active front-line Paramedics. In recent years, gala attendance has exceeded 600 participants, underscoring its significance within the Paramedic Services community.

Discussion

With the 2027 OAPC Conference in Windsor, there is a significant opportunity to showcase the best of the County of Essex and the broader region. The event brings approximately 300 delegates and vendors to the conference and an additional 300 attendees to the awards gala, generating meaningful economic benefit for local hotels, restaurants, transportation providers, and tourism partners.

In addition to the economic impact, hosting the OAPC Conference positions Windsor-Essex as a provincial leader in Paramedic Services innovation. The conference attracts key partners in the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medicine, including representation from the Ministry of Health's Emergency Health Services Division and senior government officials such as Assistant Deputy Ministers. Their participation provides a valuable platform to highlight our regional achievements, strengthen relationships, and demonstrate our commitment to system modernization and high-quality patient care.

The conference also creates a unique professional development opportunity for local Paramedic staff and emerging leaders. With the event held in our community, more staff will be able to attend, learn, and network without travel, supporting succession planning, leadership development, and ongoing clinical excellence.

Hosting the OAPC Conference enhances the visibility of Windsor-Essex within the provincial emergency services community. It allows us to showcase local innovations, highlight our partnerships with healthcare and academic institutions, and reinforce our reputation as a collaborative, forward-thinking region committed to advancing pre-hospital care.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the OAPC AGM and Leadership Conference being held in Windsor. Essex-Windsor EMS is not the host organization for the event.

The service will, however, provide limited in-kind logistical support, including staff participation to assist with coordination and to support activities that showcase Essex-Windsor and the broader region. As the conference is being held locally, it is anticipated that additional Essex Windsor EMS staff may

attend as part of their regular professional development, without incurring travel or accommodation costs. These activities will be accommodated within existing resources and operating budgets.

Consultations

Sandra Zwiers, CAO

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation <input type="checkbox"/> Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results <input type="checkbox"/> Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Being an Employer with Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Government Working for the People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Promoting Transparency and Awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County <input type="checkbox"/> Harmonizing Action for Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2026-0218-EMS-R01-JL, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs Conference – 2027, as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Lammers

Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor Emergency Medical Services

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
N/A	N/A