



To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council
From: Scott Alexander
Emergency Services Manager, Fire Chief
Report Number: FC-2024-02
Subject: Quarterly Report
Meeting Date: December 4, 2024

Recommendation:

THAT Report FC-2024-02 be received as information.

Report:

- As RFSOC progresses into an approved OFM RTC (Regional Training Centre) for 2025, enrollment continues to be strong. Over the last quarter, the EZTFD sent 6 firefighters to 4 different NFPA approved sessions, and 8 firefighters attended a lithium ion/EV training seminar. We also had instructors assist with NFPA 1006 Auto Ex, NFPA 1006 Gen Rescue and NFPA 1002 Pump Ops training. As part of our contribution to the RFSOC group, EZT hosted an NFPA 1041 Instructor 2 training at the Township office. At the time of this report, East Zorra-Tavistock will be sending a maximum of 2 firefighters to recruit training in 2025.
- The RFSOC team lost 2 important members this past year as Training Officer Jackie Mussel resigned her position in October and Fire Prevention Officer Geoff Hayman accepted a position with another fire service in June. Both positions have been filled, with Paige Ford taking on the Fire Prevention Officer role on Sept 23rd and Paul Marks assuming the Fire Training Officer position on December 11th.
- To provide increasing firefighter mental health support, the Fire Chiefs from Oxford County have combined to create a Firefighter Mental Health Peer Support Group that is trained and supported by the TEMA Foundation. Firefighters were nominated by their own fire departments to be trained by TEMA to provide initial support for our

firefighters so no one is ever without care in any crisis situation. Starting in early 2025, our firefighters will have access to an app and will have the ability to reach out to any qualified firefighter that they would feel comfortable contacting for immediate support. We currently have 2 individuals trained to assist with this mental health program.

Below is a link to the Tema Foundation and the work that they do to support First Responders:

[About - Tema Foundation](#)

- The Stations have all been active in providing fire prevention information over the past year. Not only did they all distribute information to their respective schools during Fire Prevention Week in October, they promoted Test Your Smoke Alarm Day, Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week, and assisted at the Outdoor Farm Show. They continue to actively provide timely and seasonal information on their Station signs and on their Association social media sites and attend other community events as requested.
- Staff is still waiting for the status of the Ontario Fire Protection Grant that was announced in July and applied for in September. This grant is to be used specifically for cancer prevention strategies such as equipment, PPE, minor infrastructure, and technology. Staff chose to select new face masks for our upcoming SCBA purchase for our grant application. There are also outstanding grant requests for Enbridge's Project Zero and Project Assist, and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Certification Grant for 2024.
- We wish to thank the following firefighters for their service to the Township and their respective communities and wish them well in their retirement:

Hickson Station: Firefighter Jack Lambkin

Innerkip Station: Firefighter Eric Van Andel

Tavistock Station: Tavistock Station Chief Mike Donaldson

Together, these individuals contributed over 40 years of service to the residents of East Zorra-Tavistock.

- As much as we are regretting the loss of experienced and dedicated firefighters, we celebrate the promotions of others:

New Tavistock Station Chief Chris Roth

New Tavistock Station Deputy District Chief Scott Zehr

New Tavistock Captain Ryan Ropp

These promotions are all effective December 1, 2024.

Legislation

- Back in April, the Canadian Government announced an increase in the federal tax credit:

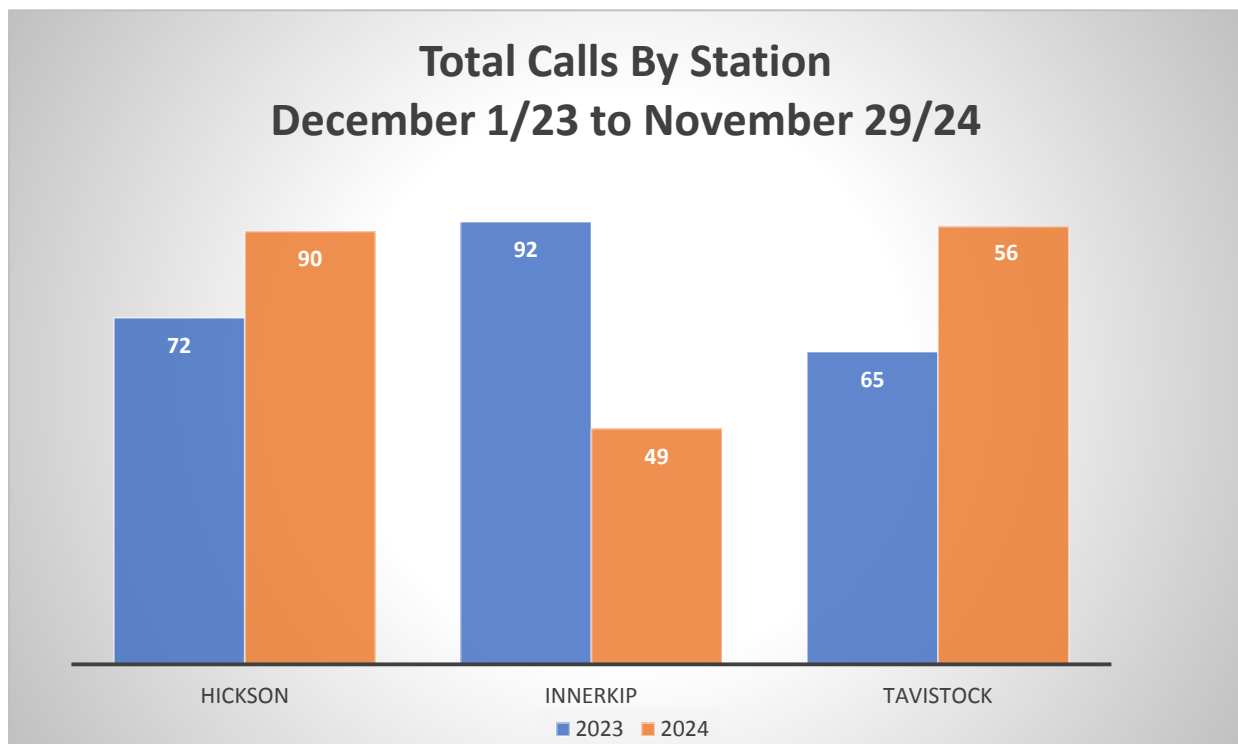
[Government to increase tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers - Canada.ca](#)

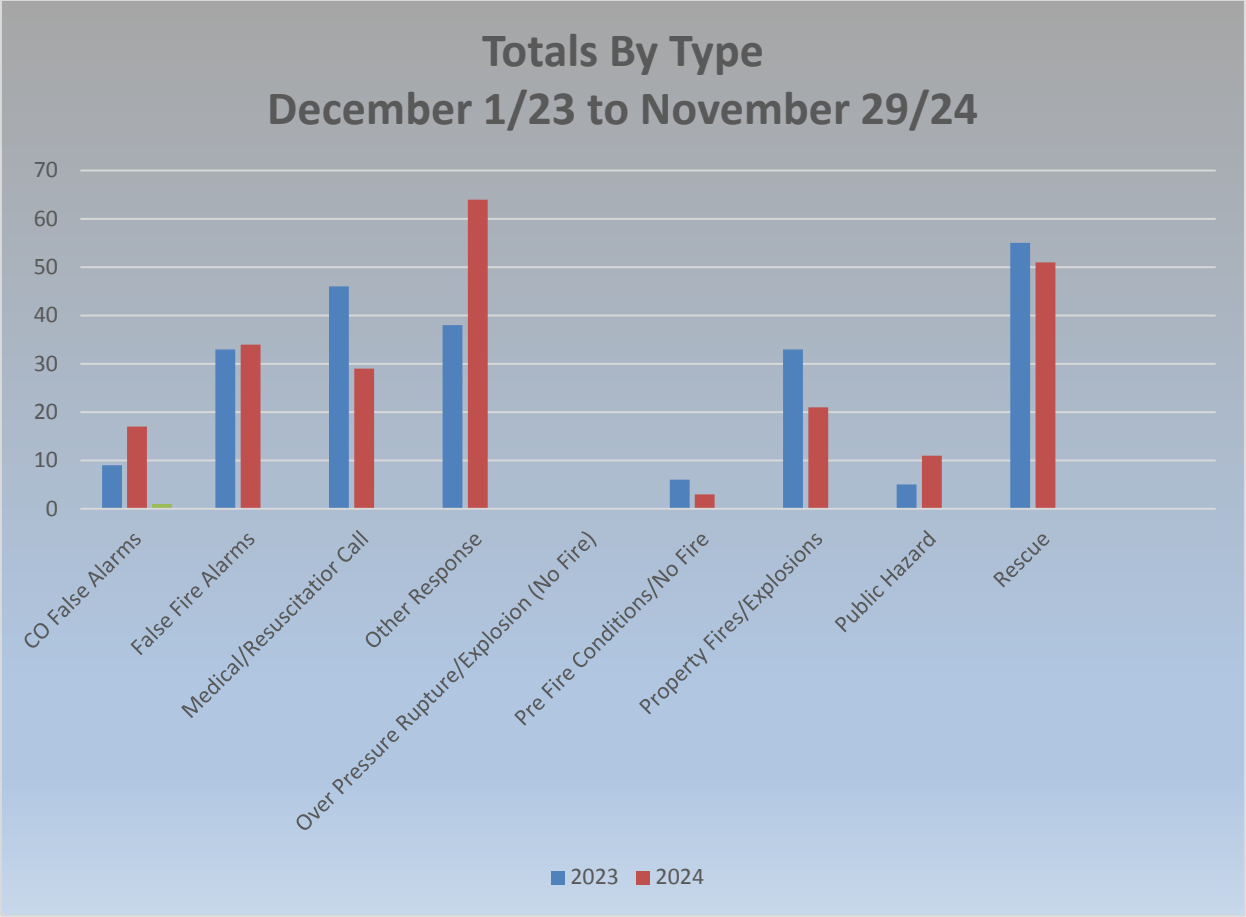
- The Ontario Government has recently announced increased cancer support for firefighters:

[Ontario Expanding Cancer Coverage for Firefighters | Ontario Newsroom](#)

[Ontario to Introduce Sixth Working for Workers Act | Ontario Newsroom](#)

2024 Response Statistics





Financial Implications:

No financial implications with this report.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

- Financial Sustainability
- Good Governance
- Infrastructure
- Service Delivery
- Community Vitality
- Environmental Awareness

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	CIO-2024-11 - 2025 Council Meeting Schedule .docx
Attachments:	- 2025 Council Meeting Schedule.docx
Final Approval Date:	Nov 29, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Meaghan Vader