

WHEREAS the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville contains approximately 198 km of Provincial Highway infrastructure, including portions of Highways 401, 416, 15, 16, 2, 137; and

WHEREAS Fire Departments in Leeds and Grenville responded to approximately 220 emergency incidents on the Provincial highway network in 2023; and

WHEREAS eleven of the twelve fire departments within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville rely on volunteer firefighters for emergency response; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation has an agreement with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs specifying “approved services” that must be performed in order to qualify for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS in many cases the “approved services” are not required and therefore no reimbursement is provided by the Ministry; and

WHEREAS the cost of responding to these emergency incidents fall on the taxpayers within each municipality; and

WHEREAS the Fire Protection Services Reimbursement Program for Unincorporated Ontario includes responding to false alarms as a call type that may be eligible for payment; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of transportation should recognize the value to public safety that each municipal fire department provides when responding to emergency incidents by incorporating emergency response to the Ministry approved list of services; and

WHEREAS the Chief Fire Officers Association of Leeds and Grenville support and encourage the Ministry of Transportation to expand the approved list of services for municipal fire departments responding to emergency incidents on the Provincial highway network within the Province of Ontario.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal requests that the Ministry of Transportation update its agreement with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs to recognize all emergency responses on the Provincial highway network as a public service, and establish a minimum rate of reimbursement for each response.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation, Premier of Ontario, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers’ Association of Leeds and Grenville and Municipal Councils within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.