



To: Mayor and Council
From: Rick Chesebrough, Fire Chief
Date: January 16, 2024,
Committee of the Whole Date: February 26, 2024,
Title: 2023 Fire Department Annual Report

For Direction
 For Information
 For Adoption
 Attachments

Recommendation: THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls receive the 2023 Fire Department Annual Report.

Purpose: The purpose of the report is to provide members of Council an overview of the 2023 fire department operations.

Background: Each year the fire department produces an annual report for Council. This report will assist in identifying trends from year to year.

The Smiths Falls fire department annual report provides detailed information on all functions of the fire department. The report includes, dispatching services, firefighter training, fire prevention and logistics operations and association activities.

The report will identify the dispatching services that are provided to the various agencies, including the financial summary of revenue generated from the dispatching agreements and Automatic Aid agreements.

Analysis and Options:

The emergency response information contained in the report, is a mandated requirement that every fire department must submit to the Office of the Fire Marshal for statistical purposes.

Budget/Financial Implications: N/A

Link to Strategic Plan (2023-2026): N/A

Existing Policy: N/A

Consultation: Stephen Dickey Interim Treasurer
Lieutenant of Logistics Paul Bissonnet
Lieutenant of Training Andrew Fleming
Lieutenant of Fire Prevention Jason Smith
Volunteer Firefighters Association

Attachment: 2023 Annual Report

Notes/Action (space for Council Member's notes):

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved for agenda by CAO:

Original Copy Signed
Rick Chesebrough
Fire Chief

Original Copy Signed
Malcolm Morris, CMO



Annual Report 2023



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SMITHS FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

~Established in 1852~

Fire Chief's Message

Mayor Pankow, Members of Council, and CAO Morris,

I am pleased to present to you the Smiths Falls Fire Department 2023 Annual Report.

2023 witnessed the end to the COVID pandemic with many restrictions being removed, this allowed the department to return to the public interactions that are so beneficial to our residents.

The ability to provide fire life safety presentations and conduct inspections are both critical components to reducing fire related injuries and fatalities.

One of our many strategies included school visits, firehall tours and in person discussions with vulnerable occupants.

Our message remains the same to ensure you have a working smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms and you practice your home escape plan in the event of a fire.

There were 109 fatal fires, resulting in 121 fire fatalities in Ontario in 2023.

Our fire department responded 296 calls in 2023, an increase of 23 calls from 2022, the highest portion of our calls being alarm related, which represents 25% of our call volume.

A major fire occurred at 25 Old Mill Road, the former water treatment facility for the Town of Smiths Falls on May 8th, firefighters were faced with intense flames and tremendous heat, the extinguishment required mutual aid activation for additional aerial apparatus and Pumpers from neighboring municipalities, the historic structure sustained significant damage with an estimated dollar loss of \$ 2.5 million dollars.

This fire was successfully brought under control with no injuries reported or damage to surrounding properties or the Rideau canal.

The training division is responsible for the education and skills maintenance of approximately 25 members including both career and volunteer firefighters.

In 2023 the Province of Ontario through the Office of the Fire Marshal mandated the new training requirements for all Firefighters, this initiative placed a tremendous strain on our training division and staff. Through exceptional planning and commitment of our Firefighters, just over 2300 hours of training was received.

I am extremely proud of each member of the fire department for their dedication and contribution to protecting their community. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the Mayor and Council and the CAO for their support of the fire department and their leadership over the last year.



Territories Covered by the Smiths Falls Fire Department

Town of Smiths Falls (2021 Census Information)

Population: 9500

Population in 2016: 8780

Total Number of Private Dwellings: 4523

Population Density per Square Kilometre: 958.1

Land Area in Square Kilometres: 9.66

Rideau Lakes Township (2016 Census Information)

Population: 10,883

Total Private Dwellings: 6891

Population Density per Square Kilometre: 15.3

Land Area in Square Kilometre: 729.22

Drummond North Elmsley (2016 Census Information)

Population: 7773

Total Private Dwellings: 3607

Population Density per Square Kilometre: 21.2

Land Area in Square Kilometres: 366.13



Fire Agreement

Mutual Aid

The Fire Department is a member in the Lanark County mutual aid program with the following municipalities:

Beckwith Township

Tay Valley Township

Town of Carleton Place

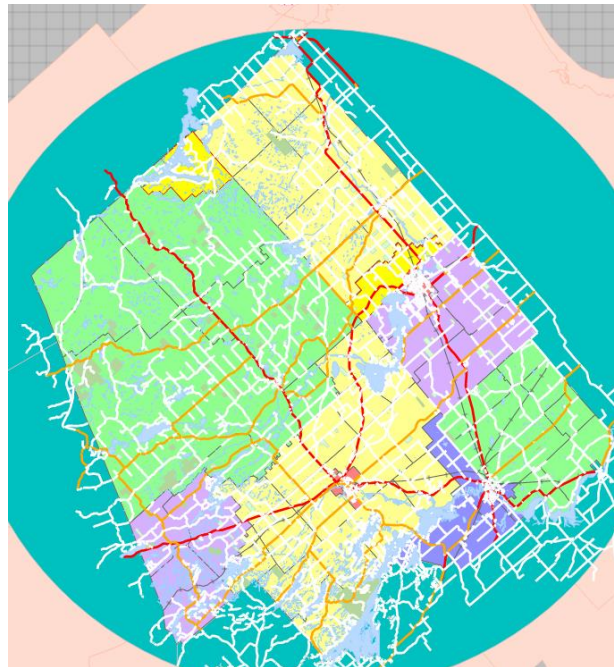
Township of Drummond/North Elmsley

Township of Mississippi Mills

Town of Perth

Township of Lanark Highlands

Township of Montague



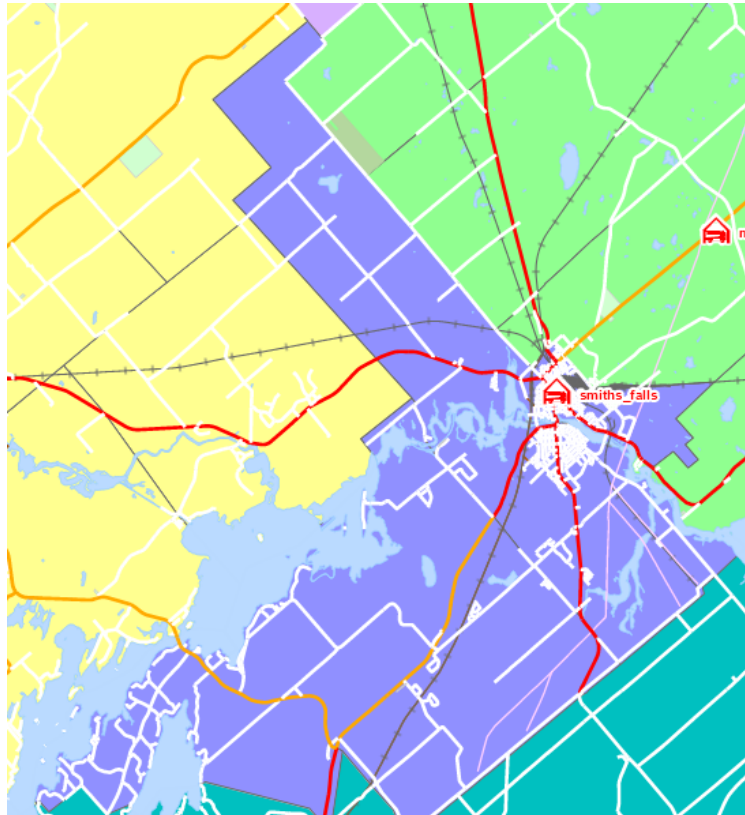
Lanark County



In addition, the Fire Department has entered into agreements to provide Automatic Aid to the following municipalities:

Township of Drummond/North Elmsley (North Elmsley Ward)

Rideau Lakes Township (South Elmsley Ward)



Purple indicates the area in which Smiths Falls provides Automatic Aid



Mutual Aid

Smiths Falls Fire Department provided Mutual Aid 2023 as indicated below.

Provided to	
Montague	2
Drummond/North Elmsley	4
Rideau Lakes Township	1
South Elmsley Township	4
Carleton Place	1
Beckwith	0
Perth	1
Lanark Highlands	0
Total	13





Fire Department Structure

The Smiths Falls Fire Department is composed of 21 Firefighters. This includes the Fire Chief, three full time Lieutenants, three fulltime firefighters and 14 volunteer firefighters. Smiths Falls Fire Department currently has 4 vacant volunteer firefighter positions.

Smiths Falls Fire Department operates a dispatch center. Currently, we have one part-time dispatcher who dispatches along with the 6 full time firefighters. An Administrative Assistant and IT Coordinator are shared resources between Fire and other departments.

Current structure is as follows:

- Fire Chief – Rick Chesebrough
- Lieutenant of Fire Prevention – Jason Smith
- Lieutenant of Training – Andrew Fleming
- Lieutenant of Logistics – Paul Bisonette
- Full Time Firefighter – Hogan Fitzgearld
- Full Time Firefighter – Curtis Macpherson
- Full Time Firefighter – Jaden Sunderland
- Part Time Dispatcher – Tammy Hardy





Fire Department Personnel Profile

Staff	Authorized	Actual	Vacant
Fire Chief	1	1	0
Lt Fire Prevention	1	1	0
Lt Training	1	1	0
Lt Logistics	1	1	0
Fulltime Firefighters	3	3	0
Volunteer Firefighters	18	14	4
Part time Dispatcher	1	1	0
Total	26	22	4

Years of Service

Years of Service	Number
0-4	12
5-9	3
10-14	2
15-19	1
20-24	1
25+	3
Total	22

Firefighters by Age Group

Age Group	Number
18-24	4
25-34	8
34-44	2
45-54	5
55-64	3
65+	
Total	22



Fire Prevention and Public Education

The Smiths Falls Fire Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life within our community by providing protection and safety to life, property, and environment.

Smiths Falls Fire Department prevents fires and injuries by using the three lines of defense.

1. Public safety Education.
2. Fire safety standards and enforcement.
3. Emergency Response.

The Lieutenant of Fire Prevention is active in the first 2 lines of defense.

- Educating the public regarding fire safety and prevention measures.
- Conducting fire inspections to make sure that all required fire prevention and safety measures are in place and being maintained.

Bylaw 8809-2015 is a bylaw that was adopted to regulate installation and operation of fire and or carbon monoxide alarm systems. This bylaw provides the fire department with the appropriate names of key holders of these systems. It also makes sure that all property owners do their annual alarm maintenance.

The Smiths Falls Fire Department also offers Public Education programs, varying from lectures on fire safety and fire extinguisher training to businesses and groups.

2023 Fire Prevention Activities:

Activities	
Inspections	313
Re-Inspection for Compliance	21
Complaint/Request Inspection	4
Business Licensing	19
Inspection for Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm	200
Fire Investigations	9
New Construction Plans Review	4
Fire Safety Plan Review & Approval	9
File Search Requests	6
Court Prosecution/Appearance	4
Fire Marshal Orders Issued	3
Public Education Activities	18
# of people reached	5320 +
Hoarding	3





Fire Investigation

The goal of the Fire Investigation is to prevent fires by identifying the cause of a fire and neutralizing the threat of a similar incident repeating itself. Smiths Falls Fire Department investigates every fire.

The primary goal of any fire investigation is to not only determine the origin and cause of a fire, but also to help in future building code and fire code development.

The primary responsibilities of the fire investigator are to determine the origin and cause of a fire scene using the standard guide as set forth in the NFPA 921 to determine the cause of the fire.

- Natural – Fires ignited by acts of nature, such as lightning.
- Accidental – Fires caused by careless means, non malicious electrical, mechanical, chemical.
- Undetermined – Fires that cannot be proven.
- Incendiary – Fires intentionally and maliciously set.

When fires are determined “incendiary” and “undetermined” and criminal maliciousness is determined, the fire investigator will request the Police Department assist in the investigation process. A team concept is developed whereby the investigation process becomes an origin and cause and a criminal investigation. A working relationship with fire and police sharing information can result in closing an investigation in a timely manner.

The Fire Marshal’s Directive 2023-001 states that “All assistants to the Fire Marshall shall notify forthwith the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) Duty Officer, Office of the Fire Marshal, and Emergency Management (OFMEM) of all incidents that meet the following criteria:

- Fires or explosions resulting in a fatality.
- Fires or explosions requiring person(s) to be admitted with life threatening injury as in-patient(s) to a hospital (it is the responsibility of the fire department to make every reasonable effort to confirm the status of injured persons transported to hospital prior to the release of the fire scene). The local fire department shall record the efforts taken to obtain information regarding the status of a patient admitted to the hospital which may include inquiries to local hospital, paramedic services, and/or police agency.
- An assistant to the Fire Marshal must report a fire incident as soon as they become aware of the incident if it involves a person who was taken to the hospital due to an exposure and/or injury sustained as a result of the fire.
- Explosions (where the explosion is suspected or known to be the primary event).
- Fires or explosions suspected of being incendiary (criminal). Discretion to notify the Office of the Fire Marshal may be used: when the cause, origin, and circumstances has been determined; when there is no impact to a building(s); or, in circumstances where there is



no clear threat to life. These types of fires include dumpster fires, car fires and wildland fires. Note that car fires are only investigated if suspected of being involved in a serious incident (homicide, robbery, etc.), fatal, or life-threatening injury. The OFM does not investigate if the fire is the result of a motor vehicle collision that does not include any of the other above criteria. All incendiary fires and explosions must be reported to the police authority having jurisdiction.

- Fires or explosions where the loss is significant to the community. The local authority having jurisdiction has the discretion of which method they choose to classify a significant loss. Note that significant loss is classified as being at least either \$1M or twice the residential average sale price for that community. The local authority having jurisdiction has the discretion of which method they choose to classify a significant loss. Examples of: “significant to the community” may include, but are not limited to, fires at religious institutions or fires that appear to have been intentionally set and targeted towards a certain type of establishment.
- Fires or explosions involving circumstances that may result in widespread public concern (for example, environmental hazard).
- Fires or explosions in multi-unit residential occupancies where the fire spread, or the explosion impacted multiple units or where suspected Fire Code violations have directly impacted the circumstances of the event.
- Fires or explosions involving clandestine and illegal drug operations, cannabis/marijuana grow operations.





2023 Fire Investigations:

Address	Type	OFM Notified	Police Notified
15 King St.	Residential	No	No
13 Gladstone St.	Residential	No	No
40 Merrick St.	Residential	No	Yes
53 Carol Crest.	Vehicle	No	Yes
208 John St.	Residential	No	No
25 Old Mill Rd.	Commercial	Yes	Yes
61 Russell St. E	Residential	Yes	Yes
66 Main St. E	Residential	Yes	Yes
30 Lombard St.	Park/Storage	No	Yes





On May 8, 2023 Smiths Falls Fire responded to a structure fire at 25 Old Mill Rd, Smiths Fall. This was a former water treatment plant located in the town of Smiths Falls. Upon arrival firefighters discovered a fully involved structure fire. Over the next approximately 12 hours a crew off 33 firefighters would fight this fire. Mutual Aid was activated, Perth and Monague Fire Departments responded to assist. The estimated loss associated is 2.5 million dollars.





Thursday, September 28, 2023, was Ontario's first Test Your Smoke Alarm Day! In 2022 there were 133 fire fatalities in the province - the most in 20 years. As part of Test Your Smoke Alarm Day, all Ontarians are encouraged to learn more about smoke alarms, fire safety, and home fire escape planning, which can save the lives of you and your loved ones. Most importantly, we want you to test your smoke alarms! The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), with the support of fire services and fire safety partners across Ontario, is challenged Ontarians to test all smoke alarms in their homes on September 28.

We distributed 5000 pamphlets to the residences of Smiths Falls along with a sending messaging to the local schools with messaging to be broadcasted at morning announcements the week leading up.



Vulnerable Occupancy Drills

In accordance with the Ontario Fire Code all seniors' homes, care and treatment homes and hospitals are required to have at least one fire safety inspection and one fire drill, attended, and critiqued by the SFFD each year. These fire drills are conducted simulating staffing levels at their lowest in these facilities.

Social Media

After a successful first year of establishing a voice on Facebook, we have attempted to use this platform to educate people and inform the residents how to reduce their risk from fire and life safety hazards. The focus of the education portion is primarily on fire related topics, however. We have also attempted to utilize social media to promote training exercises, events, and topics important to the Town of Smiths Falls and other partners in the community. It has allowed us to highlight the good work that the fire department is doing in the community and lets us actively promote events and initiatives.

Hoarding

We have been engaged with property owners and a mental health official to help bring residences within the town into compliance with property standards by-laws, the Ontario Fire Code and ensure properties are a safe place for the occupant to live along with other occupants. Hoarding can create hazardous conditions for our firefighters. Exits may be blocked and fire loads may be excessive due to the amount of combustible material.

The collaborative working relationship between enforcement agents and mental health professionals is the perfect combination of service to keep tasks a priority and keep the support in place to make progress possible.

The fire department continues to work along side mental health officials. Issues encountered are building owners wanting to evict the tenant and the lack of monetary assistance to the tenants for clean-up.

It must be noted that no one organization can or should be responsible for responding and dealing with hoarding situations as they can be too complex and costly. Hoarding requires the perfect marriage of enforcement mandates and support service skills.





Peer Support

The Smiths Falls Fire Dept. and the Fire Services in Lanark County recognizes and understands that we have a legislated requirement under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of the importance of mental health, wellbeing, and psychological safety of its personnel to be an important part of a productive, effective, and healthy workplace. The development of the Lanark County Critical Incident Peer Team (CIPT) was formed in 2018. It is a peer driven program that we are a member of. This is an additional support mechanism available for all of Lanark County Fire Services who may experience critical incident stress or be dealing with someone that has experienced it through an event. This service is supportive in nature, not counseling, to ensure that fire services personnel deal with the stressors of a traumatic incident. This provides a mechanism for those individuals to reach out to other members in the same profession for assistance. 2023 has seen this group deployed 6 times.

For another layer of available help for our staff we have partnered with Wounded Warriors Canada which is a nationally recognized mental health service provider dedicated to serving ill and injured Trauma Exposed Professionals (TExPs) and their families in both official languages.

They have a range of clinically facilitated programs that have been developed to support the unique needs of Veterans, First Responders, and their families. Their programs support individuals, couples, spouses, surviving Family members, and children of those who serve or have served our country and communities.





Training Report

In this year-end training report, we delve into the critical aspects of our Firefighters training initiatives. From honing life-safety techniques to enhancing emergency response strategies, this document highlights the dedication, resilience, and continuous learning that define our firefighting team's commitment to ensuring community safety. Through rigorous exercises, simulations, and skill-building sessions, our firefighters have demonstrated unwavering resolve in the face of evolving challenges.

The steadfast commitment of the Smiths Falls Fire Department to training excellence has culminated in an impressive total of 2304 hours (96 Days) invested in skill refinement and professional development. Each hour dedicated to training represents an investment in the expertise that defines our firefighters and their ability to respond effectively to any emergency scenario.

This summary provides a comprehensive overview of the significant milestones achieved through our rigorous and continuous training efforts over the past year.

- 12 Firefighters received their NFPA 1006 Water Rescue Awareness. Record of Completion.
- 4 Firefighters received their certification for NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 and 2
- 4 firefighters received their certification for NFPA 1002 Driver operator apparatus equipped with a pump.
- 2 Firefighters received their certification for NFPA 1035 Fire and Life Safety Educator
- 2 Firefighters received their certification for NFPA 1035 Public Information Officer
- 1 Firefighter received their certification for NFPA 1521 Incident Safety Officer
- 7 Firefighters and Dispatchers received their certification for NFPA 1061 Public Safety Telecommunicator Level 1 and 2. Awaiting results for 4 members.
- 6 Firefighters received their Incident Management System 100 certification.
- 6 Firefighters completed the IAFF Responding to the Interface (RTI) in response to the threat of wildfires impinging on built up towns and cities.
- 7 Firefighters completed training at the Smiths Falls Hospital on the MIR emergency protocols.

Smiths Falls Fire Department hosted the Canadian Pacific Railway 911 car for hands on training that was open to Lanark County and surrounding fire departments, in which over 60



firefighters received training by CP staff.

Qualification's	Trained and Qualified	Awaiting training 2024
NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 and 2	19	5
NFPA 1002 Driver/Operator	8	4
NFPA 472 HazMat Ops/Awareness/Tech	16	8
NFPA 1035 Fire Life Safety Educator	5	8
NFPA 1035 Public Information Officer	4	3
NFPA 1021 Fire Officer	4	2
NFPA 1041 Fire Service Instructor	5	4
NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector	4	2
NFPA 1061 Telecommunicator	7	0

6 Career staff
1 Dispatcher
18 Volunteers/ Currently at 14- 4 hired for Feb 2024

Training Topics throughout the year

- Gas Detection training
- Apparatus pumping and drafting
- Primary Search and Rescue drills
- Firefighter survival and bailout training
- First Aid/CPR defibrillator training
- High Rise Fire Operations
- Airbag and lifting training
- Auto Extrication
- Forcible entry training
- Water rescue training
- Aerial Training
- Auxiliary equipment
- Attack line training and deployment
- Electric vehicle fire training

Emergency Scenarios

- High Rise fire involving water treatment plant.
- Technical rescue training involving Beckwith St S Lock
- Rooftop fire Walmart
- Commercial vehicle fire involving Arena Parking Lot
- Search and Rescue scenario involving Smoke at Mazie St building.





Fire Dispatch Centre



The Smiths Falls Fire Department has performed fire dispatch for Lanark County since 2006. The Fire Dispatch Communications Centre has grown adding in several other fire departments. Smiths Falls Fire Dispatch Centre currently holds contracts for the following Fire Departments:

- Algonquin Highlands
- Beckwith Fire
- Carleton Place Fire
- Drummond North Elmsley Tay Valley Township
- French River
- Highlands East
- Lanark Highlands
- Markstay Warren
- Mississippi Mills
- Montague Township
- Perth
- Wharncliffe
- St Charles
- South Sherbrooke

All contracts, extensions signed for an additional 5 years.



Fire Dispatch Centre continued.

At Smiths Falls Fire we have 6 Fulltime Firefighters and 1 part-time civilian dispatcher who are fully certified in NFPA 1061 Level 1 and 2. This standard is a requirement for all fire communicators in Ontario. The Smiths Falls Fire Dispatch Centre (SFDC) is always staffed with the minimum of one member. When necessary, due to the weather forecast or emergent situations the dispatch centre increases staff appropriately.

The SFDC utilizes a full complement of modern dispatch technologies to ensure reliable dispatching of fire calls. Currently, three integrated technologies are used to manage 911 calls. The Avaya 911 telephone system, the Intergraph CAD call manager with mapping system and our new Intertalk Radio System. These technologies seamlessly integrate call taking, information dissemination and radio paging.

The SFDC went through many changes this year. We started the year using the Zetron Radio and ended with a new IP based dispatch console that interfaces with all types of legacy radio, digital radios, intercom, and data applications that provide a seamless dispatch console experience.

This update will allow our Dispatch Centre to grow with the possibility of taking on more contracts. Into 2024 the SFDC will be taking on the task of implementing NG911 and updating our CAD system.





911

The Smiths Falls Fire Dispatch Centre answers 911 calls for all the area's we dispatch for. The NFPA 1221 Standard states that the communications centre must answer emergency calls within 15 seconds for 95% of calls and with 40 seconds for 99% of calls. The communications centre must dispatch the emergency call to the appropriate Fire Department with 60 seconds.

Although it is quite difficult to have an exact number of 911 calls received as dispatch will sometimes receive 20 calls for the same incident, we have created 2088 calls for service in total for all the SFDC's dispatch area. At the end of 2022 we had 1962 calls for service.



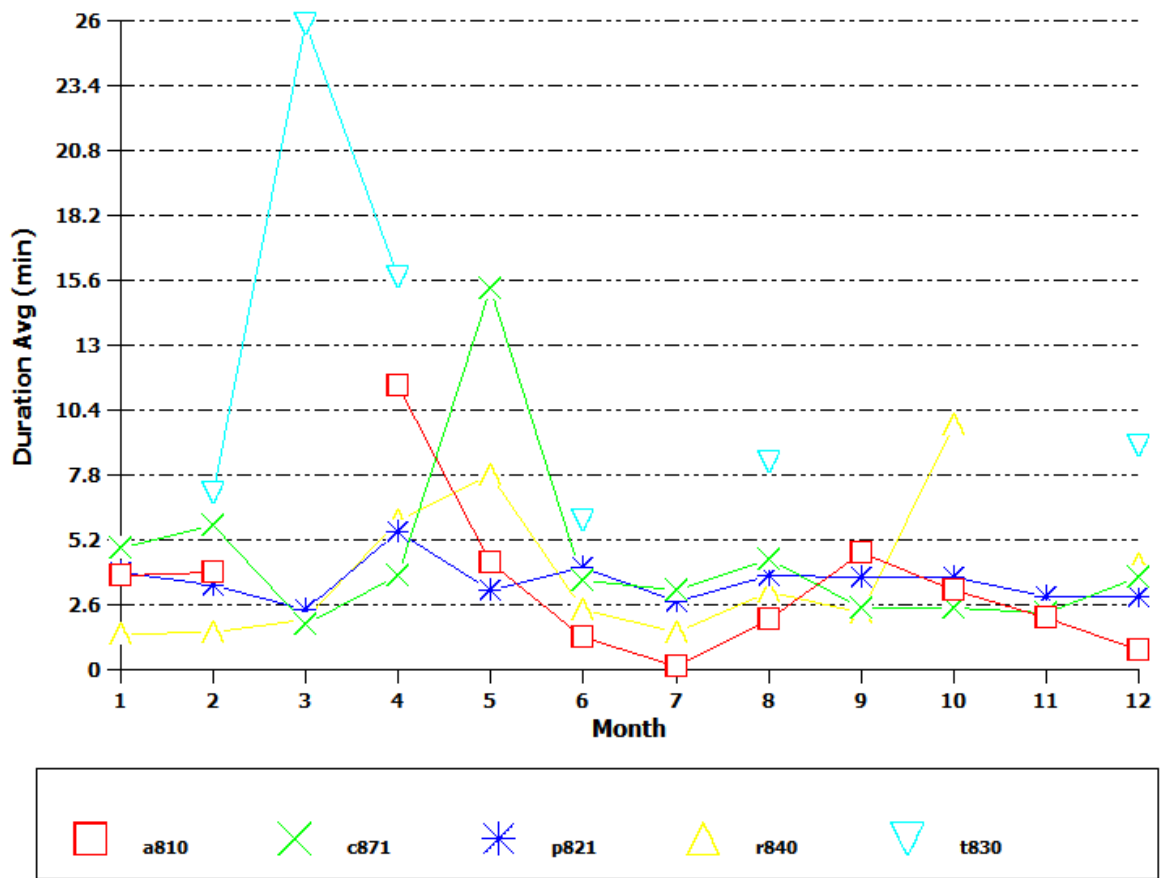


Emergency Responses

The data analysis provides a lot of information. The analysis will show us some trends, strengths and or improvements that are required to provide a high service standard to the population.

The duration averages for response time per apparatus show that Smiths Falls Fire is at most times below 5 mins, on average of about 3 mins. Our Tanker (t830) is most times used for mutual aid calls out of Town so it does have a longer response time.

Duration Averages for Unit Response Time per Unit

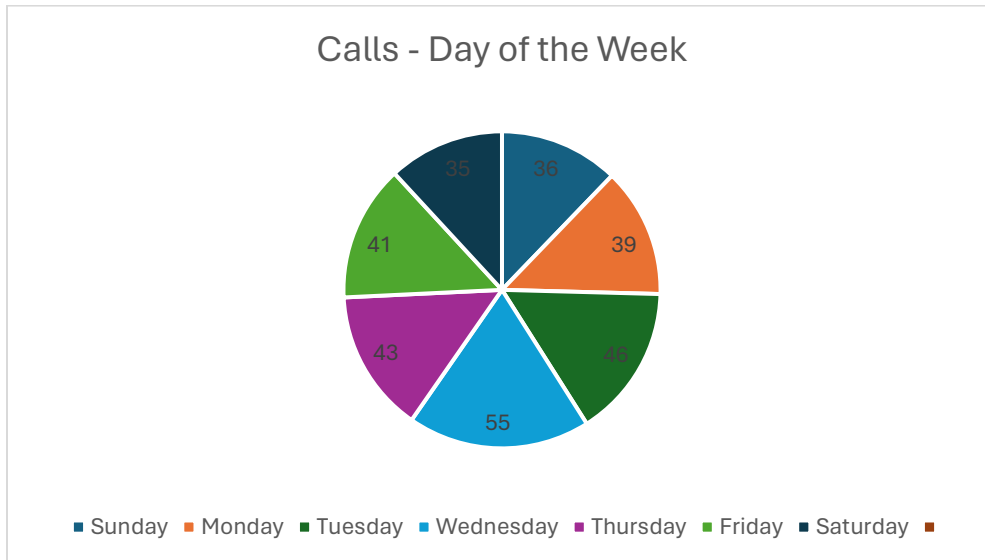


A810 = Aerial C871=3/4 Ton P821=Pumper R840=Rescue T830=Tanker

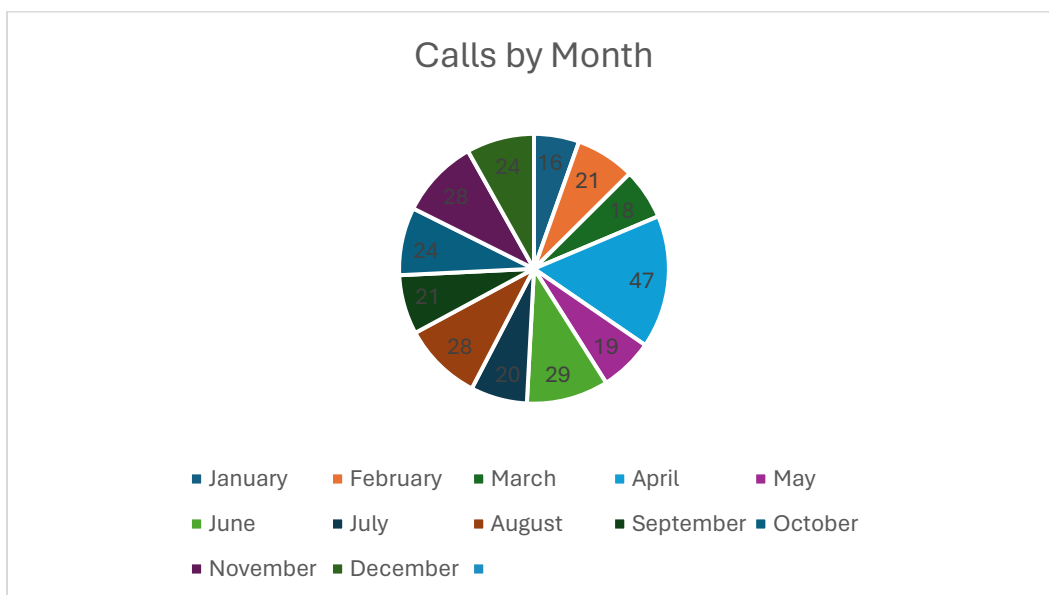


Call Statistics

The below pie chart shows that in 2023 most of our Calls were received on a Wednesday, with Tuesday following close behind.



Below you will see that Smiths Falls Fire attended more calls in April (47) than any other month. This is most likely due to a large storm that occurred in Eastern Ontario on April 5th. The Smiths Falls Fire Department was kept quite busy that day between dispatching for Lanark County and our own calls for service.





Calls by Response Type 2023 (296 calls)

Fires						
		Calls	% of year	Injuries	Fatalities	Estimated loss
Property fires/explosions	Fire	12	4.05%	0	0	3875952
	Explosion	0	0%	0	0	0
	No loss outdoor fire	11	3.72%	0	0	0
	Total	23	7.77%			

Medical/resuscitator call	Accident or illness related - cuts, fractures, person fainted, etc.	2	0.68%	0	0	0
	Chest pains or suspected heart attack	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	CPR administered	3	1.01%	0	0	0
	Medical Aid Not Required on Arrival	3	1.01%	0	0	0
	Medical/resuscitator call no action required	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Other Medical/Resuscitator Call	4	1.35%	0	0	0
	Total	14	4.73%			

Other response	Assistance not required by other agency	2	0.68%	0	0	0
	Assistance to Other Agencies (exc 921 and 922)	8	2.70%	0	0	0
	Assistance to Police (exc 921 and 922)	3	1.01%	0	0	0
	Assisting Other FD: Automatic Aid	4	1.35%	0	0	0
	Assisting Other FD: Mutual Aid	7	2.36%	0	0	0
	Assisting Other FD: Other	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Call cancelled on route	23	7.77%	0	0	0
	Incident not found	2	0.68%	0	0	0
	Other Public Service	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Other Response	4	1.35%	0	0	0
Total	55	18.58%				

Pre fire conditions/no fire	Other Cooking/toasting/smoke/steam (no fire)	10	3.38%	0	0	0
	Other pre fire conditions (no fire)	8	2.70%	0	0	0
	Overheat (no fire, e.g. engines, mechanical devices)	4	1.35%	0	0	0
	Pot on Stove (no fire)	5	1.69%	0	0	0
	Total	27	9.12%			



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Public Hazard	CO incident, CO present (exc false alarms)	9	3.04%	0	0	0
	Gas Leak - Natural Gas	5	1.69%	0	0	0
	Gas Leak - Propane	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Other Public Hazard	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Power Lines Down, Arcing	16	5.41%	0	0	0
	Public Hazard call false alarm	3	1.01%	0	0	0
	Public Hazard no action required	2	0.68%	0	0	0
	Radio-active Material Problem	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Spill - Gasoline or Fuel	3	1.01%	0	0	0
	Spill - Miscellaneous	1	0.34%	0	0	0
Total	42	14.19%				

False fire calls	Alarm System Equipment - Accidental activation (exc. code 35)	18	6.08%	0	0	0
	Alarm System Equipment - Malfunction	36	12.16%	0	0	0
	Human - Accidental (alarm accidentally activated by person)	5	1.69%	0	0	0
	Human - Malicious intent, prank	5	1.69%	0	0	0
	Human - Perceived Emergency	4	1.35%	0	0	0
	Other False Fire Call	6	2.03%	0	0	0
Total	74	25.00%				

Burning (controlled)	Open air burning/unauthorized controlled burning (no uncontrolled fire)	20	6.76%	0	0	0
	Total	20	6.76%			

Rescue	Other Rescue	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Persons Trapped in Elevator	1	0.34%	0	0	0
	Vehicle Collision	14	4.73%	0	0	0
	Water Rescue	1	0.34%	0	0	0
Total	17	5.74%				



Apparatus

Smiths Falls Fire Department currently have 5 apparatus in operation. We have an aerial, pumper, rescue, tanker and ¾ ton truck. Details are as follows:

A810 is a 2012 Aerial Platform Rosenbauer.



P821 is a 2020 Fort Garry Pumper Truck.





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C871 is a 2023 GMC ¾ Ton Truck.



T830 is a 1993 Tanker Truck.





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R840 is a 2003 Rescue Superior Freightliner.



Apparatus	Fuel Cost	Mileage	Repairs	Calls Attended
A810	\$382.17	10929.2	\$1503.13	15
C871	\$2522.65	8963	\$137.79	92
P821	\$2419.99	7435.8	\$2508.50	193
R840	\$156.43	27016.1	\$2244.51	35
T830	\$141.75	80307.4	\$2177.59	18



Emergency Preparedness

Town of Smiths Falls Emergency Program

Emergency Plan Review

- Full Review of the Town of Smiths Falls Emergency Plan was conducted as part of our annual legislated compliance.

Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

- The Emergency Operation Centre primary location is Town Hall at 77 Beckwith St N. The secondary/backup is located at 180 Queen St.
- Our primary EOC is near completion with the new renovations.

Training & Exercises

The municipal Community Control Group members have completed the following training and exercises.

- Their annual refresher training with a comprehensive review of roles and responsibilities
- Tabletop exercise with the Canadian Armed Forces (CIMC) which included members of the United States Military.
- Tabletop Exercise with our control group and EMO Field Officer.
- Media Release
- Radio Ads
- Public Displays/Presentations
- Government Week at SFDCI
- Tested the "Who's Responding" App
- Public Education during Emergency Management Week.
- Public Education on Heat Emergencies and Advisories
- New EMO Field Officer assigned to us, Andre Proteau.



Financial Resources

The Budget

In 2023 the Fire Department Operating Budget was \$1,147,492, broken down as follows:

Municipal Operating Budget	\$22,136,598
Fire Department Operating Budget	\$1,147,492
% FD Operating Budget vs Municipal Budget	5.2%
Cost per Capita (based on population of 9500)	\$120.79





Revenues

The Town of Smiths Falls has an agreement with Lanark County for fire dispatch services. Smiths Falls Fire Department currently has 6 full time firefighters and 1 part time civilian dispatcher working in rotation to cover the dispatch centre 24/7.

Currently the Smiths Falls Fire Dispatch Centre holds a dispatch contract valid until 2028 with Lanark County.

For 2023 this agreement provides **\$227,000.00**

Smiths Falls Fire Dispatch Centre renewed contracts for an additional 5 years to 2028 with the following departments.

<u>Department</u>	<u>2023 Revenue</u>
➤ Algonquin Highlands -	\$8459.01
➤ French River -	\$10,730.89
➤ Highlands East -	\$15,175.02
➤ Markstay/Warren -	\$10,600.71
➤ St Charles -	\$5140.86
➤ Wharnccliffe -	\$931.30

The Smiths Falls Fire Department provides fire protection services for Rideau Lakes Township and the Township of Drummond North Elmsley under a Fire Protection Agreement.

For 2023 these agreements provided revenues of:

Drummond North Elmsley - **\$12,093.55**

Rideau Lakes Township - **\$79,754.34**

The other revenues are provided by Cost Recovery Bylaw, Fire Alarm Permit Bylaw, Open Air Fire Bylaw, Conformity Certificates for building or fee for service, vehicle sales and Fire Marque. In 2023 these other revenues were: **\$39,724.60**

For 2023 the Smiths Falls Fire Department had revenues in the sum of:

\$409,651.28



Grants

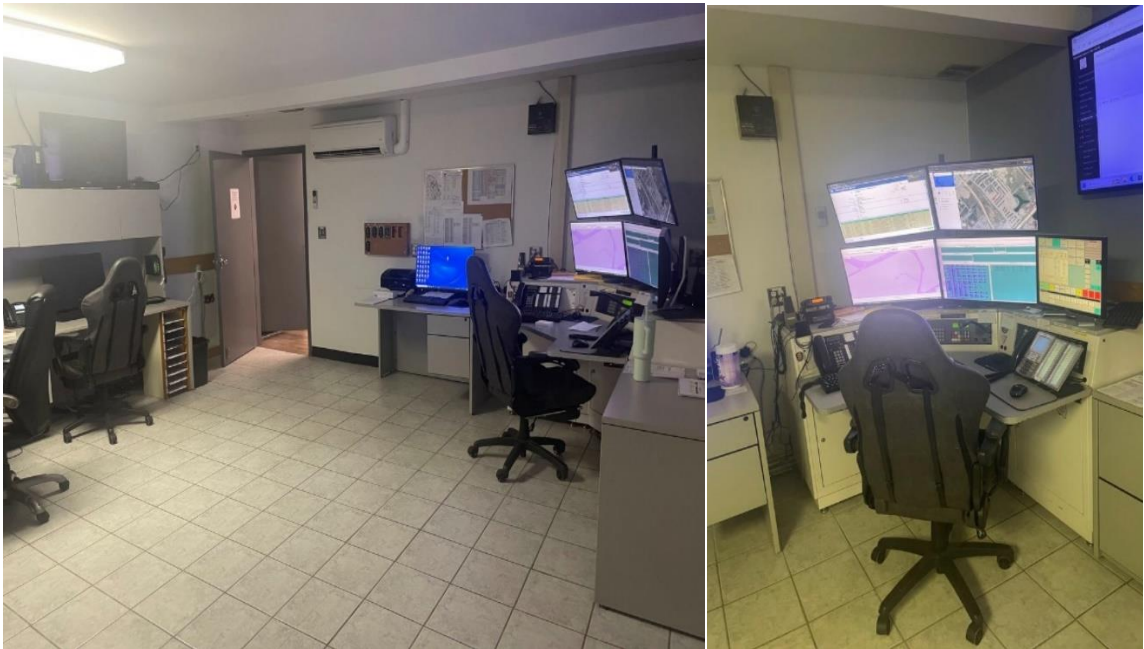
Smiths Falls Fire Dept submitted applications for Provincial Grant funding for the implementation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 service. Both applications were approved, the following is the amount received for each application.

Round 1 - \$560,000.00

Round 2 - \$448,149.00

Money from these grants was used for planning and equipment to transition to NG911. NG911 also requires licencing, which was paid for with this grant. There have been other updates to our dispatch room including new desks, a new air exchanger, cabling and equipment required for NG911. Below are some pictures of the updates to our dispatch room. It is not quite complete, but we hope to be done in early 2024.

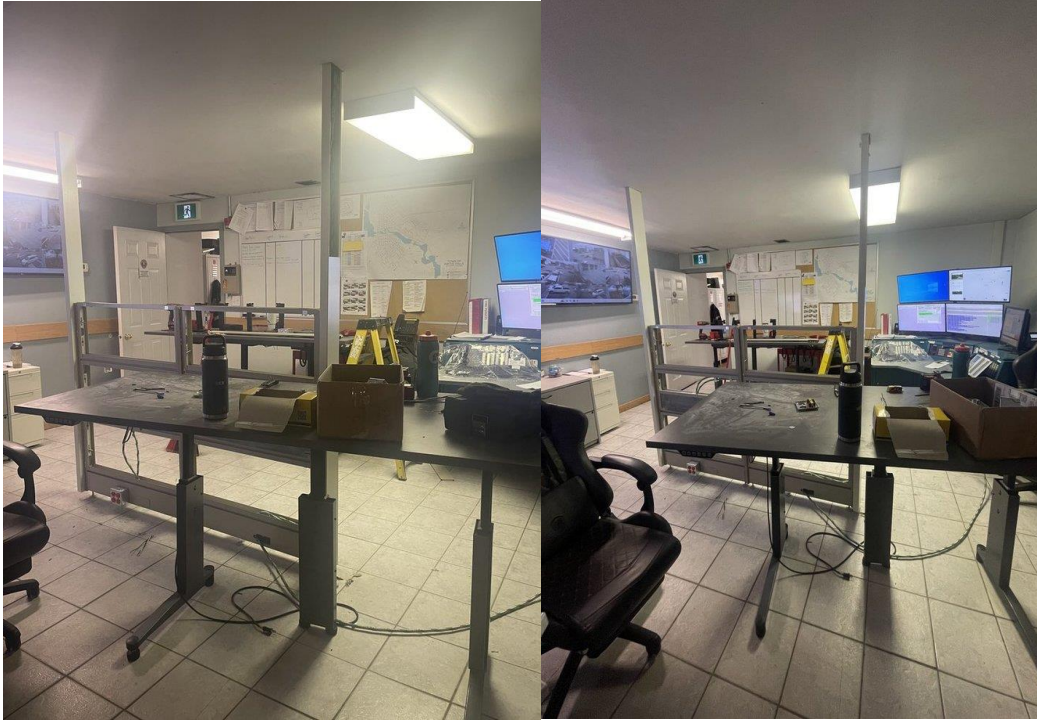
Oct 11th, 2023





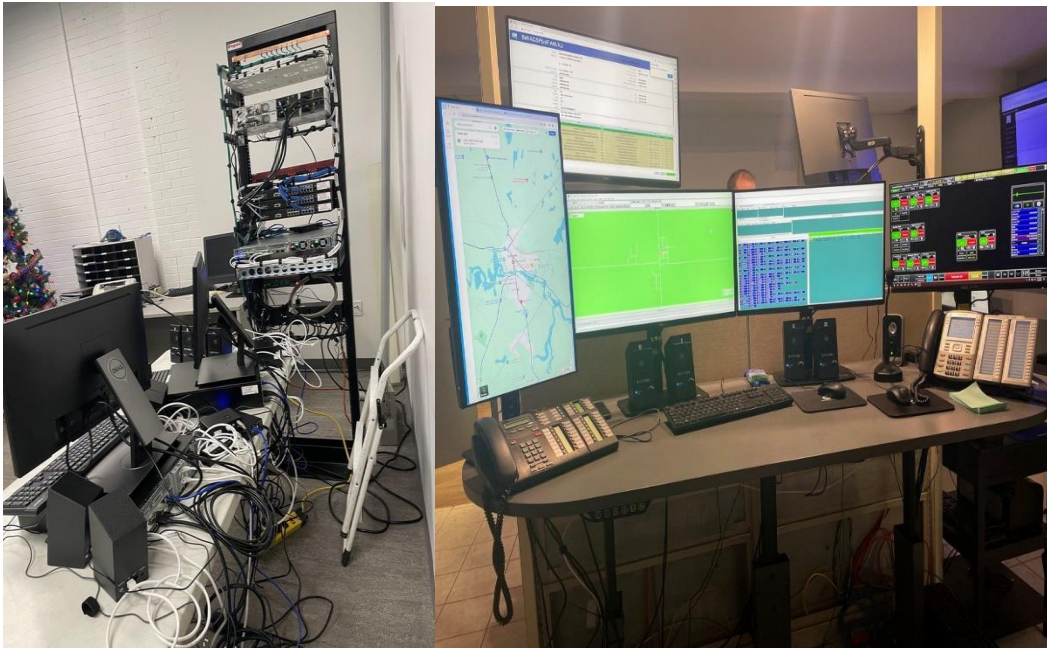
2023 Annual Report

November 1st, 2023



November 20, 2023

Dec 30, 2023





Logistics Report

Firefighting equipment plays a pivotal role in any Fire Department. It can help save lives, as well as protect property and assets. Fire incidents can be devastating, causing damage, and endangering lives of not only the public but the Firefighters too. In 2023 Smiths Falls Fire invested into several tools that can mean the difference between a minor incident and a catastrophe.

The following Extrication tools purchased are Electric Power, SFFD is investing in Green Energy:

- PCU50 – Cutter
- PSP40 – Spreader
- PtR50 – Telescopic Ram
- PBPA287 Battery Chargers

Additional extrication equipment purchased were:

- U-Strut
- Vehicle Stabilization Strut
- HDC12 Control Panel
- Lifting Bags 16 Ton
- Lifting Bags 38 Ton
- All Mounting Brackets





Logistics Continued.

Another life saving piece of equipment purchased in 2023 were Water/Ice Immersion Suits. This suit is completely waterproof with a watertight hood, integrated gloves and attached boots. The flotation and insulation performance of a zip- in buoyancy line allows firefighters to immerse themselves for long periods of time. Each suit has an integrated chest harness for attachment to tether lines, ice awl pockets for storage, rubber gloves, reinforced knees, and nonslip rubber soles on the attached boots.

Along with the suits, Water Rescue Helmets, Pick of Life, Rescue Whistles, Rescue Knife, Personal Flotation Devices (Life Vests), and Lite Trackers were purchased.



All the above Water Rescue Equipment was purchased at a total cost of:
\$12,953.10.



Logistics Continued.

A RFQ was also put out for new MSA Composite Fire Helmet's. The MSA Cairns 664 Composite Fire Helmet is the lightest structural fire helmet in this line, it is tough enough for structural firefighting, but light enough for wildlands and small enough for confined space applications.

Smiths Falls Fire received 21 Composite Yellow Fire Helmets and 3 Composite Red Fire Helmets at a cost of: **\$10,386.96.**





Community Involvement

Smiths Falls Fire Department is very active in the community. Below are some of the services provided.

- Fire Prevention education in schools, senior homes, and daycares
- Annual Fire Prevention Week
- Fire Prevention Inspections in residential, institutional, and public buildings
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Inspection
- Fire Safety Plan Support
- Fire Extinguisher training for industries and public buildings
- Fire Suppression (buildings, vehicles, grass, brush)
- Support to Law Enforcement (OPP and SFPS)
- Support to Lanark County Paramedic Service
- Mc Happy Days
- Pull the Pumper Event and Market
- Touch the truck and yard sale.
- DJ School fun night and meet the teacher night.
- SFDCI Job Fair
- Smiths Falls Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Rideau Child Development Centre
- Lake 88
- Chimo School – Community Helpers
- Celebrity Helper – Boston Pizza
- Participation in many campaigns (MD Canada, Lanark County Foodbank, Polar Plunge)





Smiths Falls Firefighter Association

The Smiths Falls Firefighter Association was established in 1852 and is the social extension of the fire department, the association is active in the community by organizing fund raising events for various charities and, assisting other agencies with their events.

The SFFA is incorporated.

The Association is a completely different entity from the Smiths Falls Fire Department, though we do work hand in hand. The SFFA is made up of full-time career firefighters, volunteer firefighters and retired firefighters. They depend on family members to assist with some of the events, also reaching out to high school students that require volunteer hours to graduate.

Covid did hinder the ability to fundraise and help the community the way they previously did. 2023 brought relaxation of Covid measures and allowed the SFFA to be back out in the community. The SFFA organized and participated in many events in 2023 including the First Annual Pull the Pumper.

The SFFA's goal is to provide support to the community as deemed necessary but not limited too:

- Fundraising to keep the SFFA financially stable.
- Assistance at community events as requested.
- Community education in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Lieutenant.
- Assisting local child centred health activities with sponsorships or donations.
- Help other First Responder organizations within our community with events and community outreach.

The SFFA fundraised for many organizations this year including but not limited too:

- Lanark County Foodbank
- MD Boot Drive
- Movember
- Boots on the Ground
- Special Olympics





Fire Department Future Initiatives

- Continuation of the implementation of the Fire Prevention Plan
- Implementation of Next Generation 911
- Complete Renovation of 911 Dispatch Centre started in 2023.
- Potential signing of additional Dispatch Contracts
- Greater presence at Community Events

