



Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM MAYOR Steven Del Duca



Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) continues to serve our city with pride and honour. Their commitment to our communities, property and environment remains incomparable. Under the leadership of Fire Chief Andrew Zvanitajs, they have fully dedicated themselves to ensuring public safety – it is truly one of our province's best emergency service organizations.

Whether it's the communicators handling emergency calls, the firefighters who deliver frontline emergency response, the mechanics who ensure all equipment is in top shape or the fire prevention officers who provide public education, VFRS is staffed by compassionate and professional individuals at the top of

their fields. You all provide exceptional service to our residents, businesses, and communities, and we are extremely grateful for your efforts.

On behalf of the City of Vaughan and Members of Council, I want to extend our sincere thanks to all members of VFRS. You have answered the calling of public service and are making a meaningful impact on communities across our city.

Thank you for all you do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Del Duca'.

Steven Del Duca
Mayor of Vaughan

MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER

Nick Spensieri



Ensuring the safety and well-being of the community remains a top priority for the City of Vaughan and the members of Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.

These highly trained and skilled professionals dedicate their lives to protecting those who live in, work in and visit our city. Every member of all six divisions – Communications, Fire Prevention, Emergency Planning, Mechanical, Operations and Training – plays an important role in ensuring

our community has access to quality and reliable fire services.

On behalf of the City's Senior Leadership Team – Executive, thank you for your ongoing commitment to Service Excellence.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri'.

Nick Spensieri
City Manager
City of Vaughan

MESSAGE FROM THE Office of the Fire Chief



This report is an overview and snapshot of your fire service's status in 2023, and I present it on behalf of the individuals who serve their community with pride in the city of Vaughan. With 13,207 calls for service under our belt last year, the city continues to grow!

VFRS continues to evolve. In 2023, we began adding all-electric vehicles to our small car fleet. Two electric pick-up utility trucks,

a chief's car and two hybrid SUVs were added to our fleet, as well as the means to charge them in-house. We received three new fire engines with shorter wheelbases that should allow a nimbler response in the urban environment. We completed and tendered a LEED-certified design for Fire Station 7-12 and completed the tender for refurbishing Fire Station 7-1. We added 15 probationary firefighters to our roster in 2023, as well as expanded staffing in the Fire Training and Prevention divisions. VFRS also hired its first dedicated Fire and Life Safety Educator to provide fire safety programming and resources to our community.

The Mayor's Spirit of Generosity initiative and the VFRS proudly supported the 2023 Camp Molly program. Young women aged 14 to 17 took part in an immersive experience in the fire service over four days and were taught by volunteers who shared and empowered them toward potential careers in fire service.

As you read about our commitment to fire safety in our community on the following pages, please do not forget that it is all made possible by the dedicated members of your fire service.

I continue to extend my gratitude for the honour of serving this fantastic organization. Every year, I cannot thank the Mayor, Members of Council, the City Manager and all VFRS personnel enough. Through your support and actions, you continue to make this job easy by being dedicated professionals and perfecting your trade each day through your outstanding personal performances.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Zvanitajs".

Andrew Zvanitajs

Fire Chief

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

VFRS SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Grant Moffatt
Deputy Fire Chief
Operations and Facilities



Mike Doyle
Deputy Fire Chief
*Fire Prevention, Communications
and Administration*



James Arnold
Deputy Fire Chief
*Professional Development,
Special Operations
and Health and Safety*



Michael Ing
Assistant Deputy Fire Chief
*Business and Financial Services
and Contract Management*

OUR MOTTO

Pride and honour



SENIOR COMMAND TEAM

A Platoon

Platoon Chief Brian Culp
District Chief Jim MacDonald
District Chief John Crawford

B Platoon

Platoon Chief Jason Salisny
District Chief Jerry Nicosia

C Platoon

Platoon Chief Michael Gorveatt
District Chief Robert Simmonds

D Platoon

Platoon Chief Peter Maynard
Platoon Chief Jerry Nicosia
District Chief Jack Benbihy

Communications Division

Supervisor Andrea Alexander

Fire Prevention Division

Chief Fire Prevention Officer Darren Lynch

Training Division

Chief Training Officer Michelle Moulton

Mechanical Division

Chief Mechanical Officer Chris Dennis

Emergency Planning Division

Manager Sharon Walker



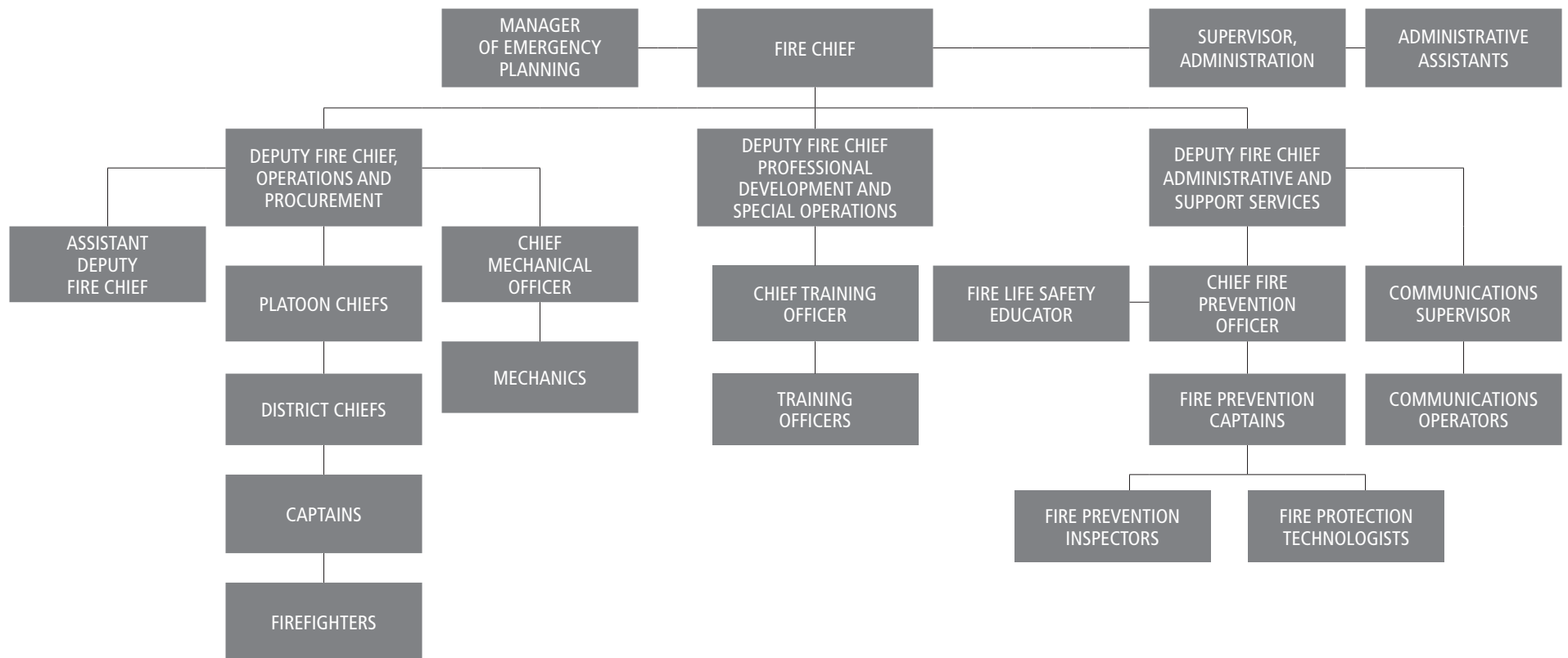
TERM OF COUNCIL

Service Excellence Strategic Plan



VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Organizational Structure

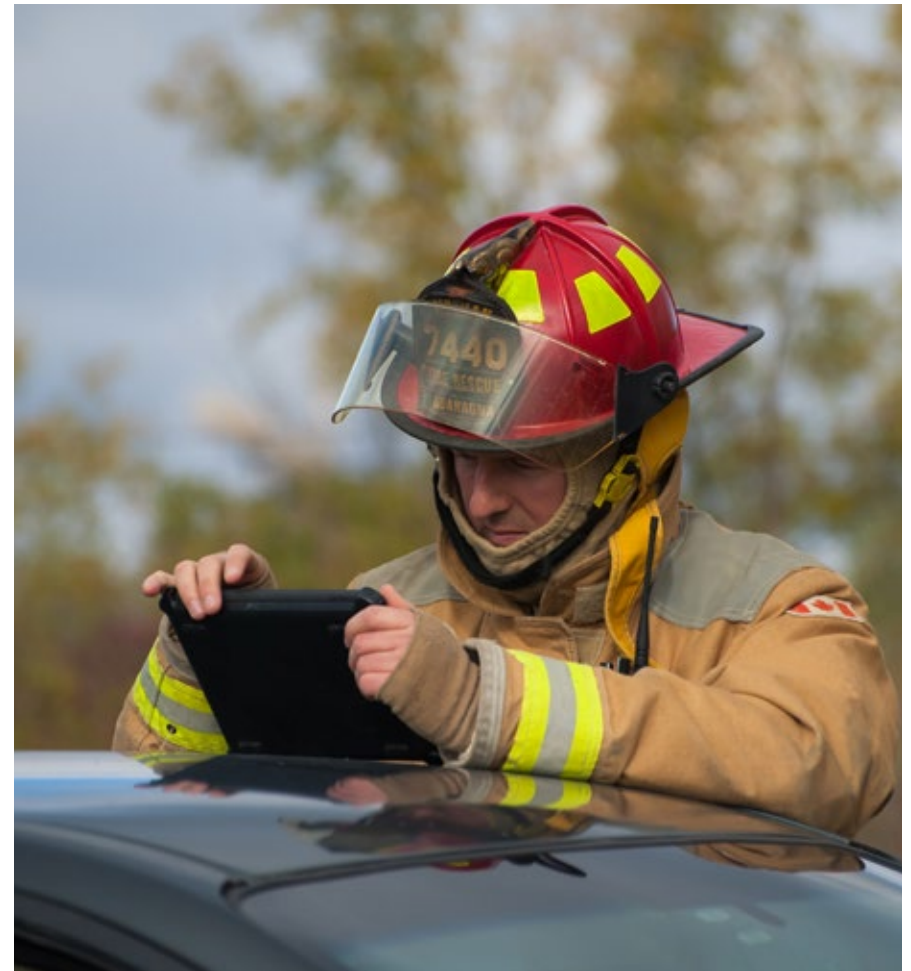




LOOKING AHEAD

The city of Vaughan continues to see unprecedented growth, posing unique challenges to fire prevention staff as they work through permit approvals and occupancy inspections to serve residents promptly. These challenges include legislated mandatory inspections of vulnerable occupancies, routine inspections, fire investigations and fire safety education. Despite these challenges, members of VFRS consistently rise to the occasion. This year, staff delivered on the Council-approved portable radio replacement, a nearly \$1 million project. This investment ensures our firefighters are equipped with the latest communications technology when they enter life-threatening situations.

In 2023, members of VFRS continued to push forward on the legislatively mandated Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG-911) system and the team remains on track to meet the 2025 deadline – on time and within budget.





OPERATIONS DIVISION

VAUGHAN FIRE

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

In 2023, the Operations Division faced many emergency incidents, including the largest single fire event in the city's history. The construction fire on Pine Valley Drive tested the entire Operations Division, but through the extraordinary efforts of everyone involved, the fire was contained in this location and the surrounding neighbourhoods remained safe.

Members of the Operations Division provide residents with the highest level of service, responding daily to requests for assistance from routine medical emergencies to complex and technical rescues. The Operations Division is one of the most visible branches of VFRS.

A Platoon

"2023 was a busy year for A Platoon.

The year was filled with numerous structure, vehicle and appliance fires, medical emergencies, car accidents and many more requests for assistance.

As our population increases, our firefighting services and calls for assistance have significantly increased. We are always training and preparing for all scenarios that we may find ourselves responding to continue to deliver professional service to our residents and visitors to our city.

Our crews attended one of our honorary children's residences. This family has been dealing with ongoing cancer treatments and hospital visits. We were able to attend the home and make their day by showing them our equipment and bringing many long overdue smiles to the family. We wish the family a speedy recovery and hope to see them again soon. We are always available at the stations to come by and visit.

Taking care of our own family is very important to us. We were able to have a retirement dinner for District Chief John Crawford and his family

at Fire Station 7-3. The crew cooked all day to spoil John and his family. Congratulations on your retirement, District Chief John Crawford!

A Platoon took part in a large simulated hazardous material spill at Cargo Flow on Keele Street in Vaughan to practice our operational readiness and hazardous materials response capabilities. We were able to rescue a simulated victim, mitigate a dangerous corrosive gas leak from a rail car and decontaminate all personnel on location."

- Platoon Chief Brian Culp



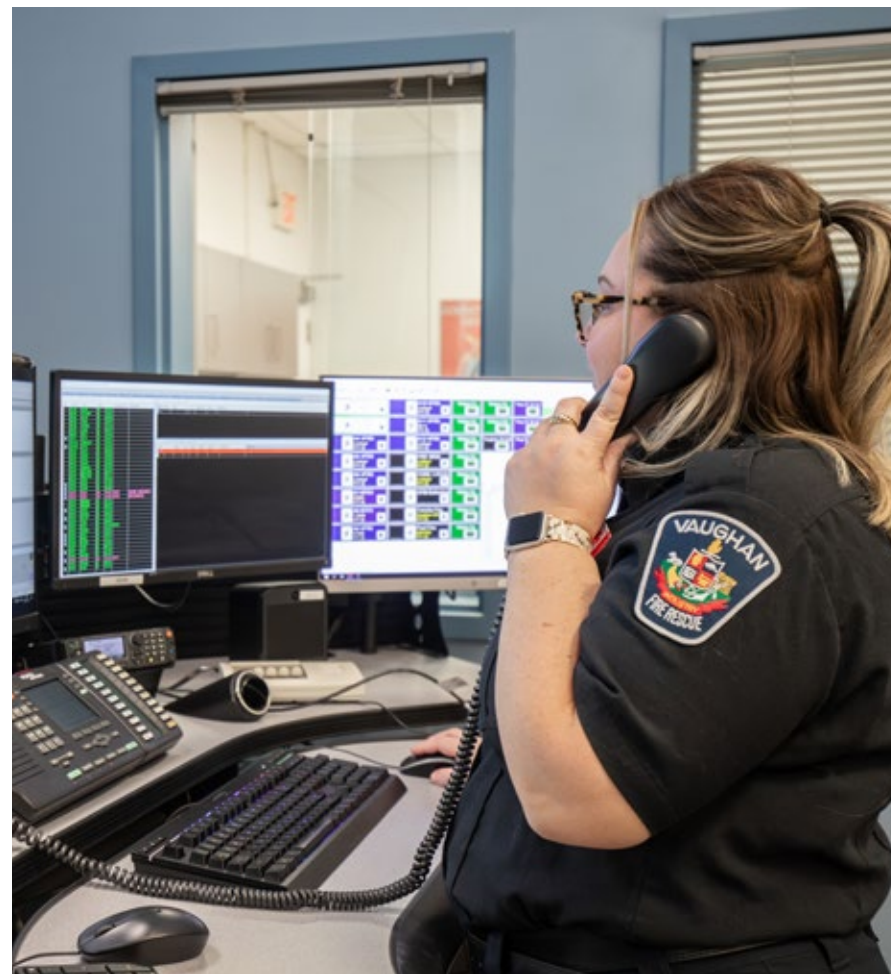
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division consists of 16 operators and one supervisor.

This division is the primary point of contact for residents of Vaughan and King Township who require fire services. The Communications Division is responsible for determining an incident's location and nature, dispatching the appropriate resources and monitoring firefighter safety.

In 2023, VFRS said goodbye to Paul Caines – who retired after 23 years with the service – and welcomed five new operators. These new hires expanded the division's complement from 12 to 16 staff, an increase that reflects the growing population of the city and the challenges of the impending transition to NG-911.

Throughout the year, the Communication Division responded to **14,691 calls** (including those for King Township) for service and played a critical role in major incidents.





FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

STATISTICS

- Inspections closed: **1,199**
- Plan examinations closed: **1,156**
- Public education events: **5,857**
 - i) Fire prevention events: **257**
 - ii) Alarms for Life home visits: **5,600**

The Fire Prevention Division is committed to providing residents with the first two lines of defence: public education and fire inspection code enforcement. The division is made up of 11 fire inspectors, two fire protection technologists and plan examiners, one public educator and two fire prevention captains under the supervision of a chief fire prevention officer. Members of the team are responsible for:

- reviewing building permits with fire detection and suppression systems.
- conducting fire safety inspections of new and existing buildings.
- implementing enforcement tools under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*.
- providing fire prevention cross-training to the Operations Division.
- investigating fires to determine the origin and cause.
- delivering fire safety public education through organized events, media opportunities, door-to-door campaigns and training sessions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, which ran from Oct. 8 to Oct. 14, was "Cooking safety starts with you!"

Throughout the week, the Communications, Marketing and Engagement team shared information about cooking safety with the public through the City's corporate social media channels. In the community, fire inspectors went door-to-door to meet with residents in high-rise buildings to provide in-person public education. Inspectors provided information about how to cook safely in the kitchen and highlighted fire safety features and evacuation strategies present in their buildings. In addition, fire inspectors set up booths to deliver fire safety education to the community at the Woodbridge Fall Fair and several stores across Vaughan, including Home Depot, Costco and IKEA.

In Vaughan, Sept. 28 is proclaimed by Council in perpetuity as "Test your smoke alarm day." In collaboration with VFRS, the Communications, Marketing and Engagement team shared information on social media to remind residents to replace their smoke alarms every 10 years, test all alarms at least once a month and use special alarms, such as strobes and bed shakers, for people who are hard of hearing.

TOP FIVE IGNITION SOURCES

Below are the top five ignition sources in structural fires in Vaughan in 2023:

1. Cooking equipment
2. Electrical distribution equipment (tied with cooking equipment)
3. Miscellaneous*
4. Open flame tools, smokers' articles
5. Other electrical/mechanical

Ignition sources are grouped in categories outlined in the Ontario Fire Marshal's Standard Incident Reporting manual. There are 10 categories of ignition sources: cooking, electrical distribution equipment, heating equipment, appliances, lighting, processing equipment, open flame tools, other mechanical/electrical, miscellaneous and exposure.

Open flame ignition sources include lighters, matches and cigarettes, salamander heaters, cutting and welding equipment and blow torches.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Throughout 2023, Operations and Fire Prevention division members worked diligently to safely conduct fire investigations and explosions that resulted in death, injury or significant property loss. By investigating the origin, cause and circumstances of these events, valuable data was collected to enhance the Fire Prevention Division's priorities and strategies.

VFRS investigators continue to develop and maintain the skills required to complete investigations per industry standards. Investigations requiring more in-depth analysis are performed by fire investigators in the Fire Prevention Division who have completed training to the level of NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigators.

*Miscellaneous is a term used in standard incident reporting that groups ignition sources that do not have a category (e.g. fireworks, static electricity or chemical reactions).

2023 STRUCTURAL FIRES WITH LOSS OR INJURY	
POSSIBLE CAUSE	QUANTITY
Arson	3
Vehicle collision	1
Design/construction/maintenance deficiency	3
Misuse of ignition source/material first ignited	22
Mechanical/electrical failure	13
Other	10
Undetermined	53
TOTAL	105



2023 FIRES BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION	
PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION	QUANTITY
A – Assembly	2
B – Care and detention	1
C – Residential	62
D – Business and personal service	4
E – Mercantile	5
F – Industrial	28
Structures/properties not classified by the Ontario Building Code	2
Classified under the National Farm Building Code	1
Vehicles	79
Other	10
TOTAL	194



**MOBILE
COMMAND**

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Throughout 2023, the Emergency Planning Division focused on building the community's resiliency through public education, mock disaster exercises and training.

Staff continued to partner with the Active School Travel team (part of the City's Transportation and Fleet Management Services department) to promote safety when walking to school, including wearing the right gear for the weather and being visible as a pedestrian.

In co-ordination with the Communications, Marketing and Engagement department, a public safety video titled "Be in the Know" was released, which promoted the importance of knowing where to go to get information during an emergency.

B Platoon

"Last year, the firefighters on B Platoon attended an unprecedented emergency incident. Members fought one of the biggest fires in the city's history, with more than 80 staff attending the scene. This construction site fire was challenging due to high winds that fanned flames and smoke over an entire subdivision. Working closely with our allied agencies, police and paramedic services, it was controlled by the outstanding effort of VFRS members and its forward progress was halted to prevent damage to other residential neighbourhoods.

B Platoon firefighters will continue to train daily and prepare for whatever might present itself to ensure the residents of Vaughan are always protected."

- Platoon Chief Jason Salisny

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

For Emergency Preparedness Week, members of the Emergency Planning Division hosted multiple events. This included:

- Story time at the Vellore Village Library and Civic Centre Library, in partnership with Vaughan Public Libraries. The stories chosen focused on emergency planning themes for toddlers.
- A virtual presentation to City staff on tornadoes, hosted by the Northern Tornadoes Project.
- A “Run, Hide, Defend” workshop hosted by York Regional Police to teach City staff what to do when there is an active threat in a City building.



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Emergency Planning Division staff added two new elements to their public education program, which included science experiments on how rain occurs and how volcanoes erupt. The second element included surveying residents on which emergency kit items they have in their homes, which increased engagement with the public.

Throughout the year, staff attended **21 events** and conducted **16 workshops**, training more than **1,400 participants**. Members of this division distributed more than **42,840 public education materials** to promote emergency preparedness.

The Emergency Planning Division supported local industries and care facilities in collaboration with the Operations Division to achieve legislative compliance through field exercises. Exercises enhance knowledge and skills in a controlled environment to ensure members of VFRS can respond to emergencies to the best of their abilities.

On Nov. 18 and 19, the Emergency Management Team participated in GridEx VII, the largest grid security exercise in North America. The team successfully managed a complex scenario involving severe weather, critical infrastructure impacts, misinformation and long-term recovery needs. More than 250 organizations across North America and Northern Mexico participated in the 2023 exercise. In Vaughan, more than 200 City staff and stakeholders participated in the exercise at the Emergency Operations Centre. Staff identified 31 action items to enhance emergency management systems and strengthen resiliency. Throughout the year, more than 9,000 staff from the City, care facilities and industries and residents of all ages participated in 43 mock emergency exercises.

As members of the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction's Making Cities Resilient initiative, VFRS was proud to share knowledge and experiences with participating communities.



TRAINING DIVISION

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Training Division supports all VFRS divisions by developing and delivering comprehensive training programs. Members of this team conduct regular drills and simulations, and teach education courses to ensure firefighters are up to date with the latest industry standards and best practices. This commitment to rigorous and ongoing training guarantees our firefighters are always prepared to provide the high level of response that Vaughan residents expect and rely on, maintaining the safety and well-being of the community.

In 2023, we welcomed **18 new probationary firefighters** who underwent a rigorous 12-week recruit class. Of note, these recruits encountered a unique experience when, on April 12, they were called upon to assist on-duty operations members crews with the largest fire in the department's history.

The Training Division hosted the Nozzle Forward program.

This program teaches an adaptable system of hose line management and fire attacks. This intense and comprehensive two-day course was attended by 25 members of VFRS and 25 members from neighbouring municipalities. Together, they worked to improve techniques for handling and managing hoses during firefighting operations. Following this training, the 25 members of VFRS shared what they learned with the rest of the department.

This year's live fire training focused on high-rise fires, which present unique challenges and obstacles. During these evaluations, crews tested their skills and worked together to overcome these difficulties. This training provided a valuable opportunity for crews to apply their knowledge and skills in a realistic, high-pressure environment, ensuring they are well-prepared for actual high-rise fire scenarios.

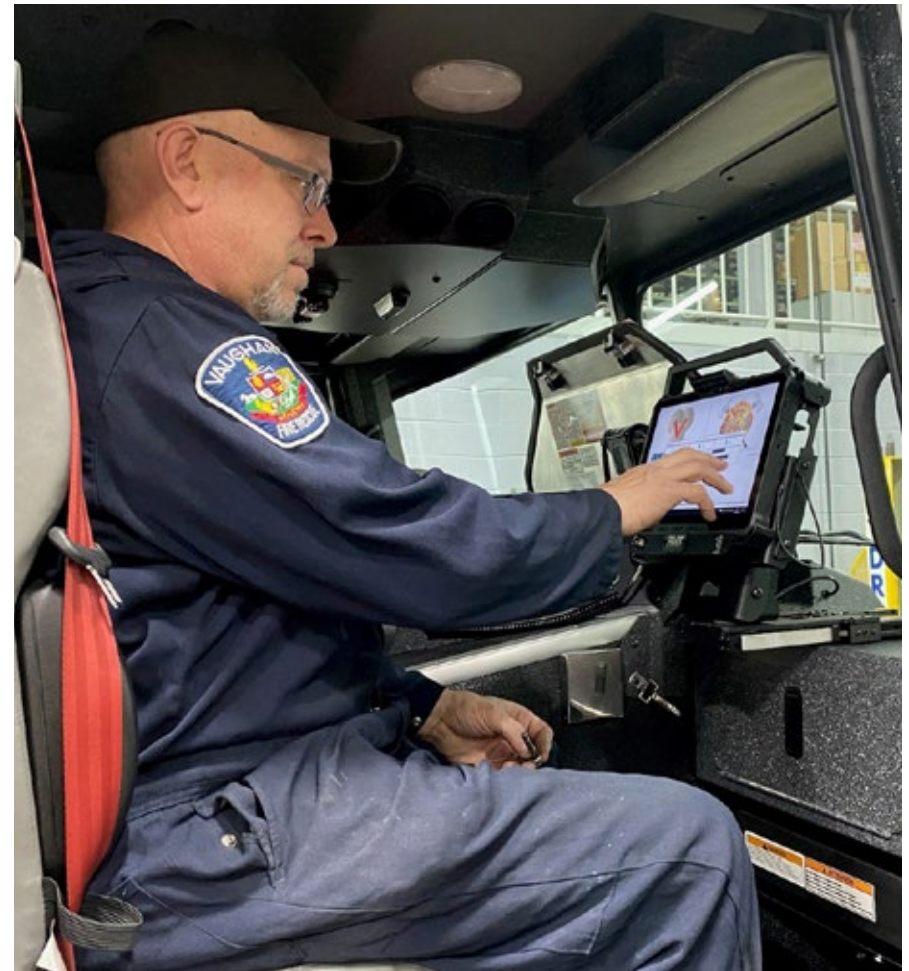


MECHANICAL DIVISION

VFRS's next steps toward a greener fleet of fire vehicles began in 2023 with **three new fire engines**. These vehicles are equipped with an **ECO IDLE-TEC system**, which automatically shuts down the diesel engine during non-fire incidents, eliminating emissions while maintaining key systems.

VFRS also introduced two new fully electric Ford F-150 support vehicles.

The Mechanical Division will continue to lead with innovations and commitments to maintain a world-class fire vehicle fleet.





JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The health and safety of all members of VFRS is paramount.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee includes five Vaughan Professional Fire Fighters Association members and four Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service administration members. All personnel on this board are certified and/or meet the required criteria approved by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.

Throughout the year, the Joint Health and Safety Committee works to ensure a safe environment for all members of VFRS. The team actively responds to and addresses health and safety-related matters, reviews incidents and injuries, and enhances initiatives like the cancer prevention program. Improvements to this initiative include post-fire decontamination, obtaining approval from Vaughan Council to purchase second sets of structural firefighting bunker gear and replacing the exhaust capturing system within the Mechanical Division.

C Platoon

"This was another eventful and busy year for C Platoon. Our Platoon responded to various incidents, including structural fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, specialized rescues and medical emergencies.

Our training platform advanced with respect to specialized technical rescues in high-angle rope rescue, ice-water rescue conducted at Seneca College, confined space rescue and hazardous materials incidents. Additionally, certification training was conducted for our Canadian Red Cross instructors, vehicle extrication training at the Joint Operations Centre, flammable liquid training at the Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute (FESTI), Nozzle Forward instructor training, and a live fire scenario-based high-rise training for all operational crews. A multi-agency unified command training exercise was also conducted with York Regional Police and York Paramedic Services.

Congratulations to personnel who completed their class examinations and welcome to our four newest personnel on C Platoon!"

- Platoon Chief Michael Gorveatt



PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The Peer Support team is a joint initiative between the City and the Vaughan Professional Fire Fighters Association. The team is made up of two co-chairs and 20 nominated members.

In 2023, after six years of dedicated service as the sole Peer Support Coordinator, Chris Betzner has stepped away from the role. We thank him for his dedication and commitment to the team and Chris continues to be a valued member of the Peer Support team. In early 2023, Steven Bonollo and Jocelyn Walsh were appointed Peer Support Co-ordinators. They are committed to continuing the efforts of building resources and support for VFRS.

The Peer Support team includes members across our suppression, training and communications divisions. This dedicated group ensures our members have access to various education, programs and services. These services aim to improve self-care and stress management resiliency throughout a demanding career in public service.

The Peer Support team has assisted with various incidents that range from single traumatic calls to various personal challenges staff members are faced with. The team can offer support and recommend resources within the community to assist employees as they navigate various challenges.

Ongoing education has played a key component for the Peer Support team as the group continues to build resources and work in partnership with several resources to ensure the needs of our first responders are met with pride and honour.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In January 2023, the Peer Support team participated in a two-day “Resilient Minds” certification course. This program is created by firefighters, for firefighters, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

In June 2023, VFRS partnered with Wounded Warriors Canada, a national mental health service provider utilizing clinical best practices and evidence-based care to help Canada’s Veterans, first responders and their families feel safe, supported and understood. This partnership enables access to a variety of education and support services.

On Aug. 2, 2023, 12 members of VFRS proudly participated in the Ride for Mental Health, a non-competitive, inclusive, community-focused cycling event providing an opportunity for Canadians from coast to coast to challenge their mental health while raising much-needed funds to support the mental health of veterans, first responders and their families. The team **raised \$8,000** and awareness for mental health.



BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF 2023 EVENTS

PRIDE PARADE

In June, members of the Vaughan Professional Fire Fighters Association and their families attended the vibrant York Region Pride Parade in Newmarket. They marched with a Vaughan Pride firetruck and proudly stood shoulder to shoulder with the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

WOUNDED WARRIORS BIKE RIDE

In August, members attended an event organized by Vaughan firefighter Jennifer Heslin. Funds were raised through the Wounded Warriors bike ride and the sale of red t-shirts. In total, the group **raised \$9,600**.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

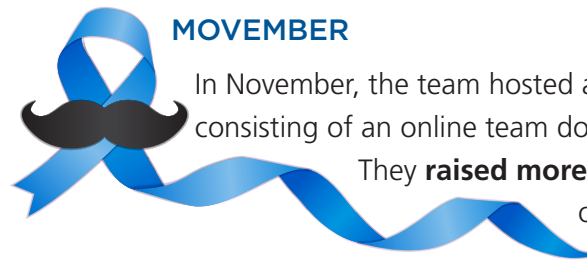
In October, the Benevolent Committee launched a t-shirt campaign and created an online donation page on Breast Cancer Canada's webpage in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The team sold 96 epaulettes, an ornamental shoulder piece or decoration used as insignia of rank by armed forces and other organizations. In total, they **raised \$800** for Breast Cancer Canada.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY BOOT DRIVE

Also in October, a small group of volunteers held a "filled the boot" donation campaign in front of the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Subway Station. They **raised \$481** for Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

MOVEMBER

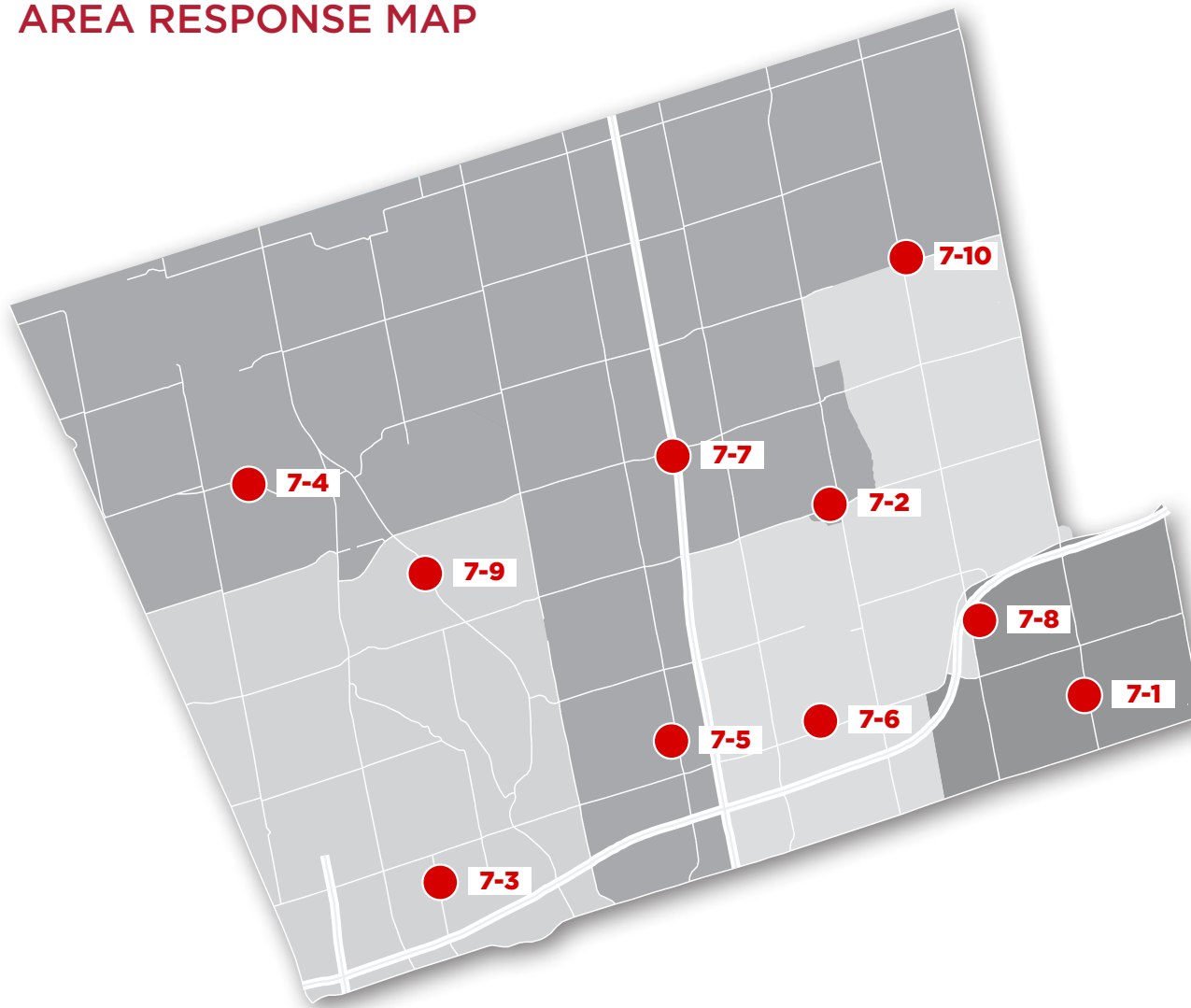


In November, the team hosted a Movember campaign consisting of an online team donation page and t-shirt sales. They **raised more than \$6,300** in support of men's health.



AREA RESPONSE

AREA RESPONSE MAP



STATION 7-1: 835 Clark Ave. W.

STATION 7-2: 9290 Keele St.

STATION 7-3: 7690 Martin Grove Rd.

STATION 7-4: 835 Nashville Rd.

STATION 7-5: 2 Fieldstone Dr.

STATION 7-6: 120 McCleary Crt.

STATION 7-7: 40 Eagleview Hts.

STATION 7-8: 111 Racco Pkwy.

STATION 7-9: 9601 Islington Ave.

STATION 7-10: 10800 Dufferin St.

INCIDENTS BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS
71	2,053
72	1,890
73	1,620
74	518
75	1,594
76	976
77	1,900
78	783
79	976
710	897
Other fire departments	2
TOTAL	13,209

2023 FIRE LOSS OVER \$500,000

LOCATION	DISTRICT	PROPERTY TYPE	\$ AMOUNT
Houston Rd.	73	Residential	1,100,000
Creditstone Rd.	76	Manufacturing	500,000
Pine Valley Dr./Teston Rd.	77	Residential	72,000,000
Ridgefield Cres.	72	Residential	645,000
Denton Circle	72	Residential	750,000
Highway 50	74	Vehicles	500,001
Cattail Dr.	77	Residential	1,575,000
Fifth Ave.	75	Residential	1,401,000
Abbruzze Crt.	77	Residential	2,005,000
Keele St.	72	Residential	500,000
Rockview Gdns.	76	Residential	800,000
Kale Cres.	77	Residential	850,000
Eddy Green Crt.	71	Residential	2,100,000
Rutherford Rd.	74	Railyard	500,000
Rutherford Rd./Highway 27	79	Residential	2,010,000
Jevlan Dr.	75	Commercial	1,000,000
Jane St.	76	Commercial	5,011,000

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME BY INCIDENT TYPE

INCIDENT	NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME
Fire	208	00:05:56
Open-air burning/unauthorized controlled burning	109	00:07:33
Alarm system equipment – malfunction	698	00:06:44
Alarm system equipment – accidental activation	546	00:06:23
Gas leak – natural gas	99	00:06:28
Vehicle extrication	22	00:06:47
Vehicle collision	1,487	00:05:45
Persons trapped in elevator	97	00:05:19
CPR administered	49	00:05:22
Asphyxia, respiratory condition	470	00:05:14
Chest pains or suspected heart attack	903	00:05:18
Vital signs absent, DOA	225	00:05:15

D Platoon

"It was a bittersweet year for D Platoon. Long-time Platoon Chief Peter Maynard retired and we celebrated Platoon Chief Jerry Nicosia's promotion.

Platoon Chief Nicosia had crews participate in repeater training exercises, where problem areas (dead zones) were identified in communications. Recommendations were put forward to enhance communications at the operations level.

In 2023, D Platoon crews participated in annual live fire training. Beforehand, all crews trained in their own districts at selected high-rise structures. This skill set was demonstrated during the live fire scenarios."

- Platoon Chief Peter Maynard



SERVICE RECOGNITION

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL RECOGNITION (FEDERAL RECOGNITION)

20 years

- Firefighter Karen Blanchard
- Firefighter Ryan Buck
- Firefighter Giovanna Casagrande
- Firefighter Michael Chesterman
- Captain Jacob Dabit
- Firefighter Jason Galbraith
- Firefighter Jason Hackett
- Firefighter Rene Magotiaux
- Firefighter Kalin Weatherhead
- Captain David Wonfor

25 years

- Firefighter Kurt Altenhoff
- Firefighter Peter Ehricht
- Captain Lisa Gordon
- Captain Mario Marmora
- Firefighter David Robb
- Firefighter Jeff Robertson
- Captain David Smith

ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

30 years

- Captain James Collis
- Captain Gary Mason
- Captain Mario Meffe
- Firefighter Anthony Spagnoli

PROMOTIONS

- District Chief John Crawford
- Captain Shawn Gurman
- Captain Andrew Newell
- Platoon Chief Jerry Nicosia

35 years

- Deputy Fire Chief James Arnold
- Platoon Chief Brian Culp

RETIREMENTS

- Firefighter John Brown
- Communications Operator
Paul Caines
- Firefighter Phil Greco
- Fire Prevention Inspector
Susan Kauppinen
- Platoon Chief Peter Maynard
- Firefighter Emanuel Oxley
- Firefighter Elaine Steenhorst



2024 BUDGET AND 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

2022-2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(\$M)	2022 Actuals	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Approved Budget	2025 Plan	2026 Plan
REVENUE					
User Fees	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
TOTAL	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
EXPENDITURES					
Labour	55.8	57.1	57.9	59.5	60.6
General Maintenance, Repairs, Utilities	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Communications	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Other	0.9	1	1.2	1.3	1.3
TOTAL	58.5	60	61.1	62.8	63.9
Net Operating	57.6	59.1	60.3	61.9	63.1
Budgeted Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	361	364	377	377	377
Capital Plan	7.2	10	8.3	5.9	11.6

2023 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PERFORMANCE MEASURES					
Measure	2022	2023 YTD*	2024 Estimate	2025 Estimate	2026 Estimate
Inspections	1,132	560	1,450	1,475	1,500
Plans Examinations	1,333	569	1,100	1,125	1,150
Fire Education (number of contacts)	5,600	2,000	5,800	6,000	6,250

Note: 2023 YTD as of June 30, 2023.

It is vital for the City to provide public education and fire investigation services, and ensure buildings and properties are constructed and maintained in accordance with applicable fire and life-safety regulations. The three lines of defence for fire protection include public education, enforcement and suppression.

2023 KEY RESULTS

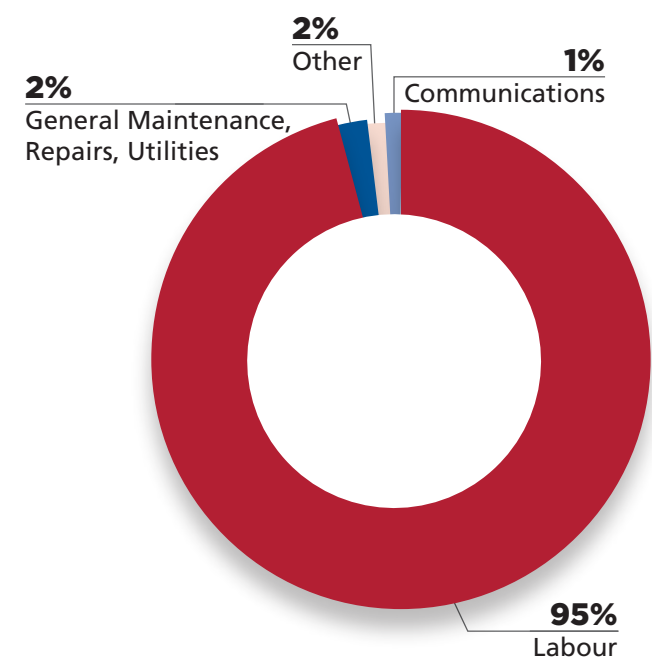
- York Region's request for proposal process is complete and was awarded to Comtech Solacom for the NG-911 implementation at YRP. The City of Vaughan and Richmond Hill are also utilizing Solacom in partnership with York Regional Police.
- In May 2023, the next generation of **18 firefighters** were officially welcomed into the City through a graduation and recognition ceremony.
- VFRS compiled its 2022 Annual Report where VFRS attended more than **12,800 calls** for service, closed more than **1,333 inspections** and participated in more than **5,600 public education events**.
- VFRS and Communications, Marketing and Engagement have launched a number of public education initiatives throughout the year to promote everything from fire safety at cottages and outdoor fireplaces to having a home escape plan and checking for appliance safety.
- VFRS shared safety tips during Fire Prevention Week, including attending the B.A.S.S.I.C Calendar Launch, Woodbridge Fair and condominium blitzes.
- VFRS delivered **14 workshops** with a total of **1,357 participants** trained.
- VFRS distributed **39,498 public education materials**.
- Through feedback from Emergency Management Team members and the program audit conducted by Internal Audit, **39 enhancements** to the program were identified. The program has **implemented 24** of the recommendations.
- VFRS continued to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within Vaughan. As of June 30, 2023:
 - Inspections: **560**
 - Plan Examinations: **569**
 - Fire Public Education and community outreaches: **2,000**

2024 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Implement fire training strategies and provincially mandated staff certification programs to support sustainable fire protection and emergency services.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive fire protection program through public education and fire prevention within the city aligned with the provincially mandated three lines of defense: education, enforcement and suppression.
- Continue to provide OCIO with VFRS subject matter expertise on the NG-911 implementation.
- Strengthen the Emergency Management Program to maintain compliance with *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.
- Continue to provide Infrastructure Delivery with VFRS subject matter expertise on planning, designing and building future fire stations to respond to the growing city.

OPERATING SUMMARY

2024 Gross Operating Expenditures



FUNDING TYPE	\$M	%
User Fees	1.2	2%
Taxation	59.9	98%
TOTAL	61.1	100%

Budget Change: The increase in operating budget in VFRS is driven by five additional resource requests (as detailed below) and labour progressions in the department.

BUDGET CHANGE (\$M)	2023	2024	2025	2026
NET OPERATING BUDGET		59.1	60.3	61.9
New/Growth		1.1	1.7	1.1
Transfers		-	-	-
Net Operating Budget	59.1	60.3	61.9	63.1

New Requests: There are five new 2024 requests for VFRS:

- A Fire Prevention Inspector to help address the current demands due to rapid growth in the city. Additionally, the scope of work is increasing with recent regulatory changes, as well, amendments to our by-laws have introduced new fire inspection requirements for secondary suites. Fire inspection and enforcement plays an important role in the three lines of defence in Ontario. Enhanced and scheduled fire inspection of buildings in the city can prevent loss of lives and property damage, and interruption of normal business transactions.
- One Fire Training Officer to meet the demands for training, proportionate to a fire service that is growing in size, as well as the scope of technical rescue services delivered to the residents of Vaughan. The Training Officer will assist in meeting legislative and provincial certification as intensification increases the demands and complexity of the service.
- IT Licenses for Incident Report and Fleet Software. The current software program used to track incident reports and other operational needs will become obsolete. As such, a strategy is in place to replace the system, requiring a robust solution that will ensure current VFRS needs are met and adapt to changing future business requirements. The request will cover the cost of licensing, support, along with a fleet software program that was recommended as part of an audit of the Mechanical Division.

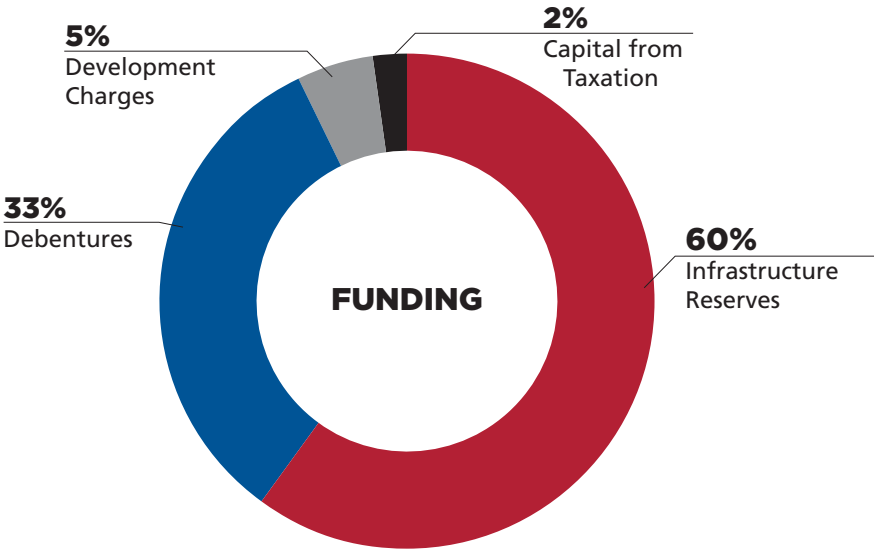
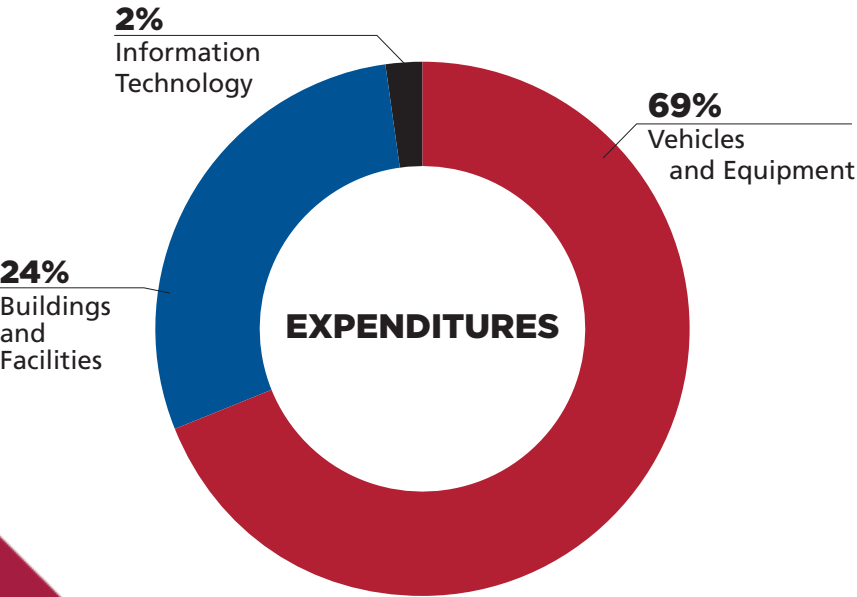
- This first contingent of 11 firefighters for Station 7-12 will help VFRS maintain adequate response targets that have been taxed by intensification, population density and traffic patterns, particularly in the northwest portion of the city.
- Additional education and promotional materials are requested proportionate to the city's growth, to improve community resilience and mitigate the impact of disasters on the public.



INDEX NUMBER	NEW REQUESTS (\$M)	FTEs	2024		2025		2026	
			GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET	GROSS	NET
100-1-2024	Fire Prevention Inspector	1.0	0.10	0.10	-	-	-	-
100-2-2024	Training Officer	1.0	0.19	0.19	-	-	-	-
100-3-2024	IT Licenses for Incident Report and Fleet Software	-	0.14	0.14	-	-	-	-
100-4-2024	Station 7-12 - First Contingent (11 Firefighters)	11.0	0.35	0.35	0.85	0.85	-	-
105-1-2024	Education and Promotional Materials	-	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		13.0	0.82	0.82	0.85	0.85	-	-

2024 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

The 2024 capital budget request includes \$5.9 million in capital projects that will be managed and reported on by VFRS. Another \$2.4 million is managed by Facility Management on behalf of VFRS.



2024 BUDGET AND 2025-2026 CAPITAL PLAN INCLUDING OPEN PROJECTS BY STRATEGY MAP

SERVICE EXCELLENCE STRATEGY MAP (\$M)	OPEN	2024	2025	2026
Active, Engaged and Inclusive Communities	13.4	0.1	-	-
City Building	0.3	0.0	-	6.6
Community Safety and Well-being	8.6	5.9	5.8	4.7
Environmental Sustainability	5.3	2.2	-	-
Service Excellence and Accountability	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.13
TOTAL	27.9	8.3	5.9	11.6



2024 BUDGET AND 2025-2026 CAPITAL PLAN PROJECT LIST

CAPITAL PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE (\$M)	2024	2025	2026
Department Managed:			
EP-9600-24 - Building a Module in EOC Software Platform	0.07	-	-
FR-3577-24 - Station 7-12 Equipment for Firefighters Purchase	0.13	-	-
FR-3655-19 - General Equipment - VFRS	0.29	0.28	0.29
FR-3658-23 - Kawasaki - Mule Station 7-2 - Replacement	-	0.26	-
FR-3678-25 - Spartan Truck (7 year) - Station 7-2 - Replacement	-	1.50	-
FR-3679-26 - Ford F150 Pick Up (7 year) HQ Prevention - Replacement	-	-	0.09
FR-3681-26 - Foam Trailer (10 year) - Station 7-8 - Replacement	-	-	0.02
FR-3683-26 - Ford Escape #1 (7 year) - HQ Prevention - Replacement	-	-	0.05
FR-3684-26 - Ford Escape #2 (7 year) - HQ Prevention - Replacement	-	-	0.05
FR-3687-25 - Ford Explorer (4 year) - Fire Chief - Replacement	-	0.08	-

CAPITAL PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE (\$M)	2024	2025	2026
FR-3696-24 - Spartan Platform Engine 7999 - Replacement	2.73	-	-
FR-3697-24 - Tanker Peterbilt (20 year) - Station 7-4 - Replacement	1.41	-	-
FR-3698-25 - FIL-MT55 Olsan Rehab - Station 7-6 - Replacement	-	1.50	-
FR-3699-25 - Freightliner M2106 - Tech Rescue - Replacement	-	1.50	-
FR-3700-25 - Trailer for Mule - Station 7-2 - Replacement	-	0.02	-
FR-3701-26 - Spartan/Smeal 55' Aerial Ladder (15 year) - Station 7-9 - Replacement	-	-	-
FR-3709-22 - Bunker Equipment, Gear, Uniforms for new Station 7-12	-	-	1.50
FR-3711-26 - Bunker Equipment, Gear, Uniforms for new Station 7-11	0.09	-	-
FR-3712-26 - Engine Purchase for new Station 7-11	-	-	0.10
FR-3713-26 - Bunker Equipment, Gear, Uniforms for new Station 7-12	-	-	1.50
FR-3714-26 - Aerial 7-2 Equipment Purchase for Station 7-2	-	-	0.15
FR-3716-24 - Fire Truck Equipment for Station 7-12	-	-	0.15

CAPITAL PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE (\$M)	2024	2025	2026
FR-3721-22 - Annual Hose Replacement	0.09	-	-
FR-3722-22 - Annual Bunker Gear Replacement	0.13	0.14	0.14
FR-3723-22 - Fire Rescue Tool Retrofit	0.44	0.17	0.18
FR-3725-25 - Replacing Fire Admin Vehicle #2	0.08	0.08	0.08
FR-3726-25 - Replacing Fire Admin Vehicle #3	-	0.08	-
FR-3727-25 - Replacing Fire Admin Vehicle #4	-	0.08	-
FR-3728-23 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #1	-	0.08	-
FR-3729-23 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #2	0.05	-	-
FR-3730-23 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #3	0.05	-	-
FR-3731-23 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #4	0.05	-	-
FR-3732-23 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #5	0.05	-	-
FR-3733-23 - Replacement Training Equipment	0.06	0.06	0.07
FR-3735-26 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #6	-	-	0.07
FR-3736-26 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #7	-	-	0.07
FR-3737-26 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #8	-	-	0.07
FR-3738-26 - Replacing Fire Prevention Vehicle #9	-	-	0.07
FR-3739-23 - Replacing Fire Admin Vehicle #1	-	0.08	-
FR-3740-23 - Fitness Equipment and Furniture Replacement - All Stations/Divisions	0.03	0.03	0.04

CAPITAL PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE (\$M)	2024	2025	2026
FR-3741-23 - Command Post 701 Upgrade	-	0.10	-
FR-9601-24 - Implementing New Firehouse Solution	0.10	-	-
Subtotal Department Managed	5.90	5.82	4.67
Managed by Other Departments:			
BF-8591-17 - Fire Hall (General) - Annual Capital Improvement	0.04	-	-
BF-8841-26 - Feasibility Study – Decommissioned FH 7-4 Kleinburg	-	-	0.35
BF-8842-21 - FH7-1 Facility and Energy Renewal (Zero Carbon Building Standards)	2.22	-	-
BF-8873-23 - FH 7-6 Feasibility Study for Expansion of Fire Station	0.04	-	-
FL-5482-25 - EMERG MGMT - Replace Unit #1505 with passenger mini van	-	0.05	-
ID-2093-20 - New Fire Station 7-12	0.10	-	-
ID-2094-26 - New Fire Station 7-11	-	-	6.57
Subtotal Managed by Other Departments	2.40	0.05	6.91
TOTAL	8.30	5.87	11.58





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PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
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YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Sikh Community of Vaughan



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