

2025 Budget Update

Addendum

December 20, 2024

Overall growth projections for Bowmanville for the next 10 years warrant the addition of a Fire Station to service new development areas. As directed by Council, Clarington has retained a consultant to manage the design and build of a new Operations Centre, Fire Station and Fire Training Facility.

Whereas growth has slowed significantly over the last two years and is anticipated to continue into 2025, it is not projected at this time that assessment growth will be sufficient in 2028 to fund the 20 firefighters required to operate a one-truck Fire Station. Given the delayed anticipated timeline for growth, the 2025 Budget Update included a phased approach for the facility, as bringing the Fire Station online in 2028 would require staffing costs representing an approximate 4 per cent tax increase.

Since the 2025 Budget Update was presented to Council, Mayor Foster met with staff to closely review growth projections and alternative options to build the Fire Station concurrently with the Operations and Training Centre. Staff worked collaboratively to find an alternative staffing approach should growth continue on this slower pace. This allows the Fire Station to take advantage of construction efficiencies and ensure that the north Bowmanville area is ready for the projected growth to protect community safety and responsiveness.

As such, Mayor Foster has made the following amendment to the 2025 Capital Program:

A fire station will now be included in the Public Works Operations and Training Centre project, adding an additional \$8.3 million to the total project cost. The fire station portion will also be funded by development charges. Once it is ready to be operational in 2028, Clarington Council will consider the staffing approach for the fire hall. If the growth assessment value is not sufficient to cover operating expenses, the required staff will either be funded through additional tax levy; or, depending on growth, a fire truck and staff can be moved from Fire Hall 1 on an interim basis to improve response times for new development until growth assessment can support the additional staff required.

This brings the total proposed 2025 gross Capital Budget to \$134,735,156 and total debenture to \$95,500,000.

As the project is to be funded by development charges, there is no impact to the proposed tax levy.

Memo attached.

Date prepared: Friday, December 20, 2024

Focus/Issue

During the budget presentation, questions were posed regarding the deletion of the Fire Station from the budget as part of the Public Works Operations, Fire Training Centre project (known as CODEFS).

Staff have completed an evaluation of the available information and have highlighted key information for consideration through this memo.

Discussion

Information For Consideration of Fire Station in CODEFS Build

Fire presented CEFS Emergency Response Review and Recommendation Report, ESD-002-23 to Council in 2023. This report recognized the impact future growth would have on emergency response and made recommendations regarding growth of CEFS as a result of that growth.

Currently, Bowmanville is the most populous urban center in Clarington, generating 50% of all emergency call demand in Clarington. Call demand will continue to increase as planned growth in Bowmanville is realized in the coming years.

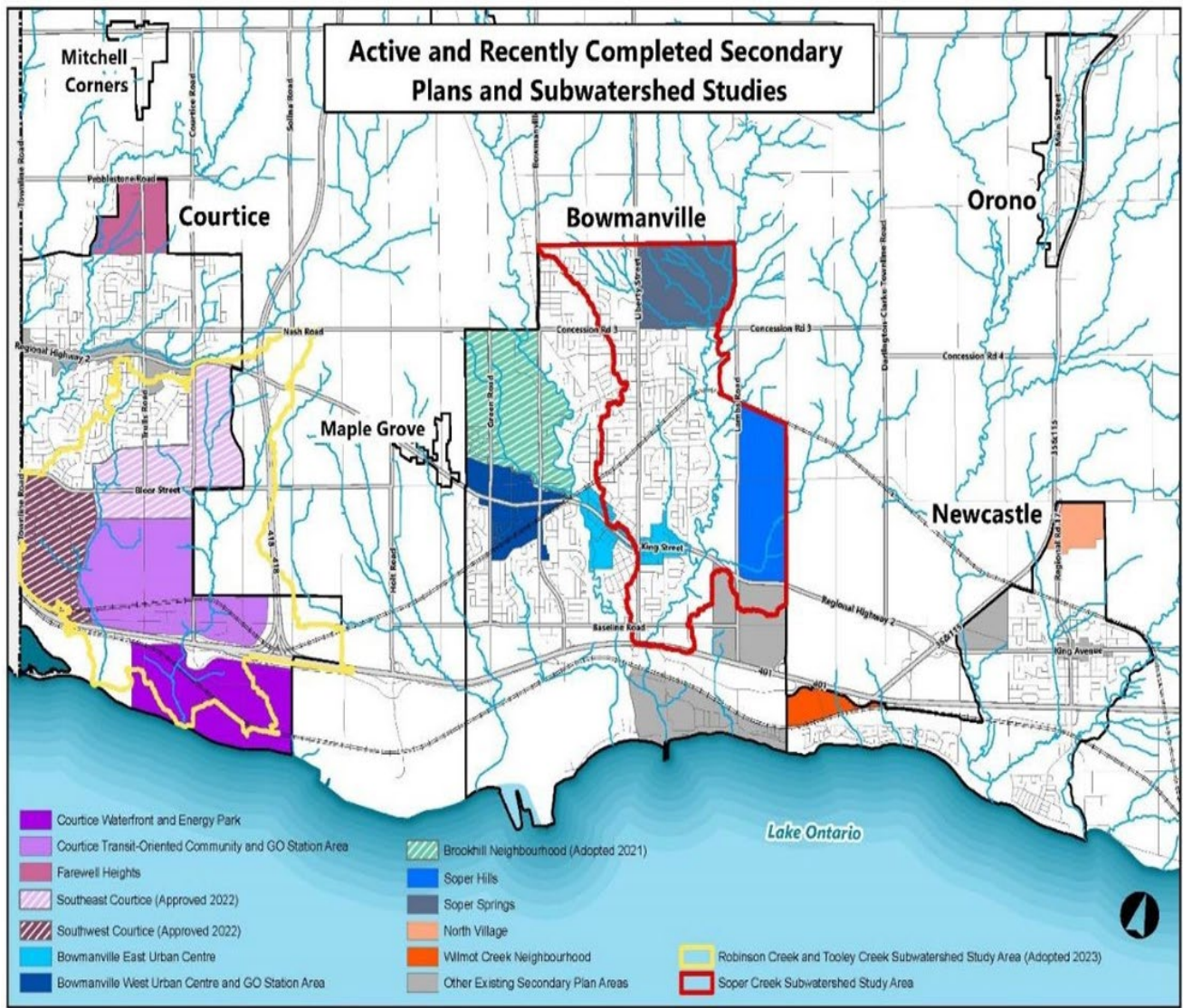
The location of the planned growth, according to the International standard NFPA 1710 best practice for fire services in urban areas, will be outside of the recommended 4 minute initial response standard.

The Fire Station, and associated staffing required, would ensure depth of coverage as outlined in NFPA 1710, specifically a response of 15 firefighters in 8 minutes, 90% of the time.

The location of the CODEFS Build is a strategically ideal location to build a fire station. This will enable CEFS to maintain initial response and depth of coverage response as per NFPA 1710.

Planned growth numbers provided by Clarington's Planning and Infrastructure Services Department will be serviced by the new Fire Station as follows:

Secondary Plan / MTSA	Estimated Units	Estimated Population	Estimated Development	Initial Response	Depth of Coverage
Bowmanville West Urban Centre and Major Transit Station Area	8,000	15,000	Ongoing		X
Brookhill Neighbourhood	2,700	7,400	Ongoing		X
Bowmanville East Urban Centre	2,400	4,286	Ongoing		X
Soper Hills	5,200	12,000	5-15 yrs	X	
Soper Springs	1,200	2,800	5-15 yrs	X	



Staffing for Fire Station

Council resolution #C-094-23 referred the staffing recommendations contained in the Emergency Response Service review to budget.

The current 2024-2027 Multi Year Budget has approved 20 Full Time Fire Fighters to be hired in 2025 at the completion of the Station 1 renovation.

The need for an additional 20 Full Time Fire Fighters and a new fire truck would be required to staff the new fire station as part of the CODEFS project. Given the proposed project timeline, this would be part of the 2028 Budget submission for Council consideration.

Should assessment growth not be at the projected levels by the time the 20 Firefighters for the new station were required, staff from the second truck at Station 1 and the existing fire truck, could be relocated to the new station, until such time a second truck could be added back to Station 1.

Key Messages

- The addition of the Fire Station as part of the CODEFS project would support future growth and support response and depth of coverage for emergency response.
- Future operational costs, specifically the addition of 20 full time firefighters will be determined by Council as part of the 2028 budget deliberations.
- Should assessment growth not be realized by 2028, council could direct staff to relocate 20 fire fighters from Station 1 to the new station.

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