

Staff Report



To	General Committee
Subject	Establishing and Regulating (E&R) Barrie Fire and Emergency Services By-law Update
Date	November 26, 2025
Ward	All
From	K. White, Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager of Community and Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Report #	BFES003-25

Recommendation(s):

That By-law 2012-200 concerning the establishing and regulating of Barrie Fire and Emergency Services be repealed and replaced with the draft by-law attached as Appendix A to Staff Report BFES003-25.

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to recommend repealing and replacing By-law 2021-200 regarding Establishing and Regulating (“E&R”) of the Barrie Fire and Emergency Service as a number of updates are required and to meet current legal compliance requirements and standards.

Key Findings:

A review of the current E&R By-law revealed that it requires a number of updates and expanded detail in several key areas. Specifically, to address changins to definitions, role descriptions, and responsibility descriptions. Updates to the By-law are also required in order to be to be compliant with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EMO), and Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) Standards, and best practices. The changes to the By-law are included in Appendix A, and a summary of improvements is included in Appendix B to this Staff Report.

The 2025 E&R by-law represents a substantial modernization of the department’s legal and operational framework. It enhances transparency, compliance, risk governance, inter-agency coordination, and Council oversight. These changes are essential to reflect Barrie’s growth, updated legislation, modern fire service standards, and the strategic vision articulated in the Fire Master Plan.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for The Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Alternatives:

The following alternatives are available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 – General Committee could maintain the existing E&R By-law. This alternative is not recommended as the current version is not compliant with multiple sections of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EMO), and Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) Standards, and best practices.

Although this alternative is available, staff do not recommend it as it leaves the City of Barrie in a position of legal vulnerability and increases overall risk.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Affordable Place to Live		
Community Safety		
Thriving Community		
Infrastructure Investments		
Responsible Governance	X	The recommendation included in this staff report supports Responsible Governance by ensuring Barrie Fire and Emergency Service are accountable, in a state of readiness, and legally compliant.

Additional Background Information and Analysis:

The current version of the E&R By-law was adopted in 2012. This new version brings the City of Barrie up to date with all current necessary compliance.

Consultation and Engagement:

There was no public consultation required in relation to this staff report.

Environmental and Climate Change Impact Matters:

There are no environmental and/or climate change impact matters related to the recommendation.

Appendix:

Appendix A – Draft E&R By-law (2025)

Appendix B – Summary of Improvements

Report Author:

K. White, Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Services, Barrie Fire and Emergency Service

File #:

Not Applicable

Pending #:

Not Applicable