



To: Mayor Glover and Members of Council
From: Jeremy Alldred-Hughes, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Date: 12 May 2026
Subject: Squad 55 - Auxiliary Responder team

Report Highlights

- Enhancing Fire Protective Services for both the firefighters and community with a multipurpose vehicle seasonally housed from Station 50.

Recommendation

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays receives the staff report “Squad 55 - Auxiliary Responder team”, dated May 12, 2026;

AND WHEREAS staff are recommending that council approve the implementation of Squad 55 in Interlaken Station 50 to enhance firefighting operations and capabilities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council approve the transfer of the surplus apparatus from the Port Cunnington Fire Station to the Hillside/Interlaken Fire Station.

Origin

Lake of Bays Fire Rescue staff have completed a preliminary survey of operational needs. Part of this has outlined the need for the following;

- Improved air filling capabilities for our SCBA. When fighting a fire and using air cylinders we are faced with two challenges.
 1. We need to transport on average 15-25 cylinders to a fire station to refill while fire operations is underway, this usually takes roughly an hour to do, with 2 firefighters and the use of a vehicle to transport.
 2. Our current compressor is due for replacement and is underpowered to efficiently fill SCBA bottles.
- An ability to transport extra forestry equipment. Currently our trucks are limited to the amount they are able to carry, and often additional resources is needed.
- Ability to transport proper rehab equipment and deacon as our trucks are limited for space.

Analysis

Rescue 2 is a 2005 ford f550 walk in rescue that has served well for the Port Cunnington station up to the point that we put a water tanker in its place December 2025 (see former report from February 2025)

Step 1

Rescue 2, now a reserve/surplus apparatus would serve well as a truck that could carry this extra equipment providing additional resources and support on emergency calls. When discussed the function and operation of the apparatus it was decided by staff that it would be best equipped with a cascade refilling system. This will allow firefighters to refill 20-25 air cylinders on scene. This will reduce turnaround time, number of personnel dedicated to air supply, and limit the traveling back and forth to an emergency scene.

The truck will also carry extra forestry equipment, hazmat equipment, rehab equipment, and medical equipment. This unit will be housed in Station 50 Interlaken and added to all major incidents in the municipality.

Step 2

The Squad will be staffed by current Lake of Bays firefighters supported by a local Auxiliary responder program. Auxiliary responders will have basic training on first aid, rehab, and support roles, but not firefighting. This will allow for a more flexible staffing and operational guidance for seasonal members.

After 6 months and 1 year a report will be brought back to council outlining the successes of the unit along with the calls it attended, trainings and return on the investment.

Financial Implications

The apparatus and facility are already Municipal assets, the additional cost would be \$14,000.00 for the air cascade system funded through our regular operations budget lines.

Strategic Priorities:

Municipal Governance & Engagement

Alternatives

Option 2 (Not Recommended)

Dispose of reserve vehicle and continue with current operation limiting the capability of air management for firefighting operations.

Option 3 (Not Recommended)

Invest in new apparatus and compressors. This will have larger financial implications and could take longer to facilitate.

Approved by:

Geoff Carleton, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 01 May 2026