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2014 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

The Future of Fire Station 424

Issue/Background:

At its meeting on December 12, 2013, Budget Committee requested the City Manager to provide a briefing note on what the City's plans are for the Fire Station building located at 462 Runnymede Road should the Fire Truck be removed from Station 424.

The 2014 Recommended Operating Budget for Toronto Fire Services (TFS) includes a recommendation to close Station 424, located at 462 Runnymede Road.

Key Points:

- Station 424 has been slated for closure since before amalgamation. This action was confirmed in the 1999 KPMG Fire and EMS Facilities Study and again in the 2007 TFS Master Fire Plan.
- Fire Services proposes to move the pumper and associated crew and retain the empty building for the foreseeable future, as it has potential to continue to be a valuable asset in service delivery, as follows:
 - TFS is moving towards implementation of software to allow advanced use of dynamic staging. Depending on statistics, it is possible that there are hours of the day or days of the week where it would be beneficial to relocate a vehicle into this hall rather than its home location.
 - Potential development in the area may warrant the re-opening of this station in the future, so retaining the property is recommended given issues and costs associated with acquiring property for fire stations in other parts of the City.
 - The 2014 TFS operating budget includes the addition of 25 Fire Prevention staff, with an additional 75 staff by 2017. These staff will require additional office space, some of which may be able to be accommodated within this existing TFS property.
 - The location of the fire station makes it a valuable asset for community events and learning opportunities such as those currently held in June during Safety Awareness Week, and Fire Prevention Week in October.

Further information: Matt Pegg, Deputy Fire Chief/Director, Fire Services, 416-338-9919,
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