

City Hall
100 Queen Street West
East Tower, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-3551
Paul.R.Johnson@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca

December 11, 2024

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding the Cost of Toronto Fire Services Operations on the Toronto Island.

Councillor Burnside submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information on the cost of Toronto Fire Services (TFS) operations on the Toronto Island. This letter provides a response to this request. It has been developed in collaboration with Toronto Fire Services and Financial Planning.

Introduction

Toronto Fire Services (TFS) is the City's only all-hazards emergency response organization. In accordance with the Ontario Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), TFS provides residents and businesses with a comprehensive suite of fire protection services 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. TFS deploys from 84 fire stations and 8 support facilities across the city, including one station on the Toronto Island.

Toronto Fire Station 335, located at 235 Cibola Avenue on Toronto Island, is staffed on a 24/7 basis with one crew of four firefighters. Across four crews rotating to provide 24/7 coverage, there are a total of 16 firefighters assigned to work at Station 335. Station 335 houses one full size pumper truck. In addition, there is a mini-pumper and a van that enables Station 335 crews to navigate the narrow streets and bridges on the Island.

The crew at Station 335 responds to every emergency incident that Toronto Fire Services is dispatched to on Toronto Island. Where incidents require additional TFS personnel and/or resources, crews and equipment are transported to Toronto Island by the TFS fireboats as needed. The majority of emergency incidents on Toronto Island occur during a peak period from May through September, with July generally having the highest volume of emergency events. TFS responded to 184,076 emergency incidents City-wide in 2023, including 269 that occurred on Toronto Island.

Response

Please find below responses to each of the questions submitted.

1. Average cost per incident, city-wide, in 2023

On a City-wide basis, the cost to operate TFS response services was \$538.7 million, as reflected by 2023 actual expenditures reported in the [2023 Year-end Operating Variance](#). Toronto Fire Services responded to 184,076 emergency incidents in 2023. The average cost per incident city-wide in 2023 was \$2,926.

2. Average cost per incident for Toronto Islands in 2023

The annual cost to maintain the Toronto Fire Station 335 crew on Toronto Island 24/7 is approximately \$3.2 million. In 2023, there were 269 incidents on the Toronto Island. The average cost per incident for the Toronto Island was \$11,895 in 2023.

3. Average cost per incident for Toronto Islands during the off-peak period in 2023

For the purpose of this estimate, the off-peak period is defined as October to April. During this period in 2023, TFS responded to 72 incidents for service. The annual cost to maintain the Toronto Fire Station 335 crew on Toronto Island 24/7 is approximately \$3.2 million. The average cost per incident during the 7-month period off peak would be approximately \$25,925¹.

4. Average cost per incident for Toronto Islands during the peak period in 2023

For the purpose of this estimate, peak period is defined as May to September. During this period in 2023, TFS responded to 197 incidents on the Toronto Islands. The annual cost to maintain the Toronto Fire Station 335 crew on Toronto Island 24/7 is approximately \$3.2 million. The average cost per incident during the 5-month peak period on the Toronto Islands would be approximately \$6,768².

Sincerely,



Paul Johnson
City Manager

cc:

Tom Azouz, Interim Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services
Stephen Conforti, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
Larry Cocco, Interim Fire Chief and General Manager

¹Annual cost of station(\$3.2M) /12 months of the year *7 months of off peak/ number of incidents (72).

² Annual cost of station (\$3.2M)/12 months of the year *5 months of peak/ number of incidents (197).