

MEMORANDUM

To: Gregory Herrett, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Greg Jones, Fire Chief and Dwayne Pike, Acting Police Chief

Date: October 11, 2018

Subject: Recommendation – First Responders Recognition

Further to the discussion at the September Committee of the Whole meeting, I can report that I've met with acting Police Chief Dwayne Pike to review the issue and make a couple of suggestions for Council's consideration. On behalf of the emergency services that we collectively represent, we wish firstly to pass our thanks along to the Mayor and Council for highlighting the importance of recognizing first responders in our community. It is our vision that the first responders' group would include Town of Amherst police officers, fire fighters, dispatchers, local Emergency Health Services personnel and the Cumberland detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This group equates to approximately one hundred first responders; who support the emergency service needs of the Town of Amherst.

Below we have suggested a few options to recognize first responders. We believe that any form of first responder recognition will require time to effectively coordinate it with all emergency service providers in our area. This will ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be engaged in this recognition. It is suggested that this event take place during the 2019 winter carnival schedule.

Option 1 - First responder's day / week

It is suggested that a First responder's day or week, take place during the time of year when other emergency service events are not scheduled. This option would include the issuance of a first responder's day / week proclamation and could include a first responders' day at an Amherst Rambler games and/or a vehicle display and equipment demonstration for the public. Further, this option would provide an opportunity to engage the public on various topics related to emergency services (i.e. personal safety, fire prevention, emerging community issues).

This option would require a collaborative effort to engage the public through the media and social media in relation to this event. It is suggested that the vehicle display and equipment demonstration portion of this event take place at the Amherst Stadium or the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre or the Fire Station.

Option 2 - First responder's breakfast

It is suggested that a First responder's breakfast take place at the Community Credit Unit Business Innovation Centre or the Fire Station; that would see all first responders in the area invited to attend. During this breakfast session the Mayor would address all in attendance and issue a first responder's proclamation. Further, the CAO and the lead for each of the emergency services would have an opportunity to provide a short address to those in attendance. It is suggested that members of the public have the ability to purchase tickets to attend the breakfast or donate to the food bank, at the entrance of this event.

This option would require a collaborative effort to engage all emergency service providers and the public, through the media and social media, on the importance of emergency service providers. Also, it is recommended that a slide show be created to highlight what emergency services provide in our area and what we do.