



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council Meeting  
**From:** Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief  
**Date:** 2026-04-23  
**Subject:** Quarterly Report for January-March 2026

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### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the Quarterly Fire report for January-March 2026, from Jeff McArthur, Fire Chief, for information purposes.

### **Purpose:**

To provide Council with an update on fire department first quarter activities (January-March 2026).

### **Background:**

#### **Emergency Responses**

A total of 33 incidents were responded to. The Totals by Type report has been included.

#### **Training & Meetings**

Department topics included incident review, PPE drills, ropes, knots & hoisting, search & rescue, firefighter survival, and rapid intervention team (RIT) training.

Members attended NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I in class, and Legislation and Lithium-Ion Battery Awareness online.

Members received Provincial Certification in NFPA 1006 Auto Extrication, NFPA 1521 Incident Safety Officer, and NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials Awareness.

Additional courses included online Strength Warrior mental health, PTSD Awareness, Suicide Awareness for Leaders, Preventing and Managing Burnout in a Rural Community Environment, Incident Command VR Training, and RIT training/firefighter CPR.

An officers meeting was held to discuss operations, budget, and staffing items.

The Fire Chief attended County Chiefs meetings and the Provincial Fire County Coordinators symposium.

## **Fire Prevention**

Attended public education events including Coffee with a Firefighter, and hosted station tours for pre school and public-school students.

Conducted an “After the Fire” door to door campaign in Rodney.

Partnered with Salus Mutual Insurance Company, on a mail out to policy holders.

Held a fire safety colouring contest for school students.

## **Other Activities/Information**

*Capital Project – Tanker* - the build is in progress, with final inspection being scheduled for mid-May. Delivery is expected in late May, when training will begin before the apparatus is put into service.

*Recruitment* - Two recruits have been attending the Elgin Middlesex Regional Fire School’s NFPA 1001 Firefighter Recruit Class.

The 2026 recruitment is being planned for this summer.

*CRA* - A Community Risk Assessment (CRA) is underway. A CRA is required under Ontario Regulation 378/18 to be completed every five years for municipalities and fire departments to identify, analyze, and prioritize public safety risks to make informed decisions on fire protection services.

*Grants/Funding* - A submission for Year 2 of the Provincial Fire Protection Grant was approved, for ventilated bunker gear rooms at each station was approved. Staff are currently gathering quotes for this project.

*Agreements* - The County Fire Chiefs are discussing options regarding Hazardous Materials response agreements, as there are currently no formal agreements within Elgin County. A draft agreement has been created and sent to County Legal for review.

A draft automatic aid agreement with Southwest Middlesex Fire, for a response area south of Wardsville, has been drafted and is being reviewed.

*Apparatus & Equipment* – ongoing routine maintenance including MTO annual safeties. Rodney Tanker 82 is being scheduled for pump repairs, after a leak was found during training. Annual pump and ladder testing is scheduled for April.

## **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**Policies/Legislation:**

None.

**Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

<b>Infrastructure Improvement</b>	<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin’s infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeff McArthur,  
Fire Chief

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Monthly Activity Report - January-March 2026 - 2026-04-Fire.docx
Attachments:	- Totals by Type-Jan-Mar 2026.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Apr 16, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Robin Greenall