2025

Short Term Master Plan

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
TOWNSHIP OF KING

Courtney Allen Fire Chief

King Fire and Emergency Services

Contents

Executive Summary

King Fire & Emergency Services (KFES) is at a pivotal moment in its evolution. As King Township experiences rapid population growth, urban intensification, and increased emergency call volumes, KFES must modernize its infrastructure, apparatus, and training capabilities to meet current and future demands.

Infrastructure Modernization

Three existing fire stations— Fire Stations 34, 36, and 38—require strategic upgrades or replacement to address space limitations, aging facilities, and compliance with modern building standards. A new Fire **Station 32** is proposed to fill critical coverage gaps in the northeast quadrant of the Township, particularly near Highway 400.

- **Fire Station 3-8**: Proposed site for new KFES headquarters with shared services potential. replacement planned within 4-6 years
- **Fire Station 3-6**: Outdated facility; replacement planned within 6-10 years.
- **Fire Station 3-4**: Excellent condition but lacks space for growth.
- **Fire Station 3-2**: New build to improve coverage and reduce reliance on mutual aid.

Training Facility

To comply with Ontario's mandatory firefighter certification (O. Reg. 343/22) and NFPA standards, KFES proposes a dedicated **live fire training center**. This facility will support skill development, certification, and retention, while reducing reliance on external training sites.

Fleet Optimization

KFES will transition to **multi-functional apparatus**, including pumper-tankers and rapid intervention vehicles (RIVs), to improve operational efficiency, reduce costs, and address staffing challenges.

- **Pumper-Tankers**: Combine water transport and fire attack capabilities.
- **RIVs**: Agile, cost-effective units for EMS and light rescue calls.

Funding Strategy

Capital investments will be supported through development charges, reserve contributions, and potential partnerships with York Region and other emergency services.

Strategic Outcomes

- Maintaining response times and firefighter safety.
- Future-proofed infrastructure and fleet.
- Improved training and operational readiness.
- Cost-effective service delivery aligned with community growth.

Who are we

About King Fire

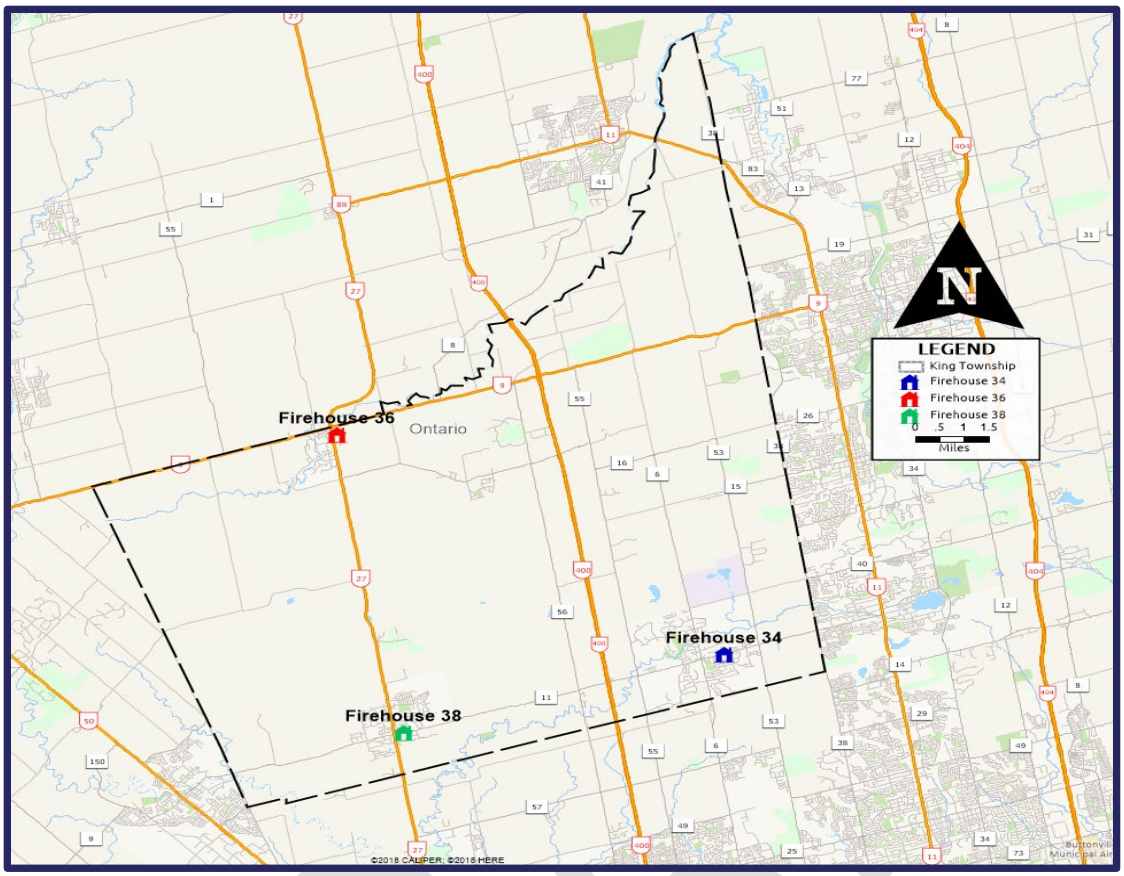
King Fire and Emergency Services is a dedicated and evolving fire department located in King Township, Ontario. As a fire service in transition, we are continually adapting to meet the growing demands of our community. Our department faces increasing call volumes and heightened expectations for public education and fire prevention initiatives. Surrounded by full-time fire departments, we are consistently challenged to deliver a comparable level of service with limited resources.

We are uniquely positioned in a municipality where approximately 70% of our coverage area is rural, requiring our firefighters to be proficient in both urban and rural firefighting tactics—to match the capabilities of our neighbouring departments—and rural firefighting strategies, which present distinct logistical and operational challenges. This dual-service model demands flexibility, specialized training, and a diverse set of skills to ensure effective emergency response across varied terrain and infrastructure.

Despite these pressures, our commitment to excellence, safety, and community engagement remains unwavering. We are proud to serve the residents of King Township with professionalism, resilience, and a forward-looking approach to emergency services.

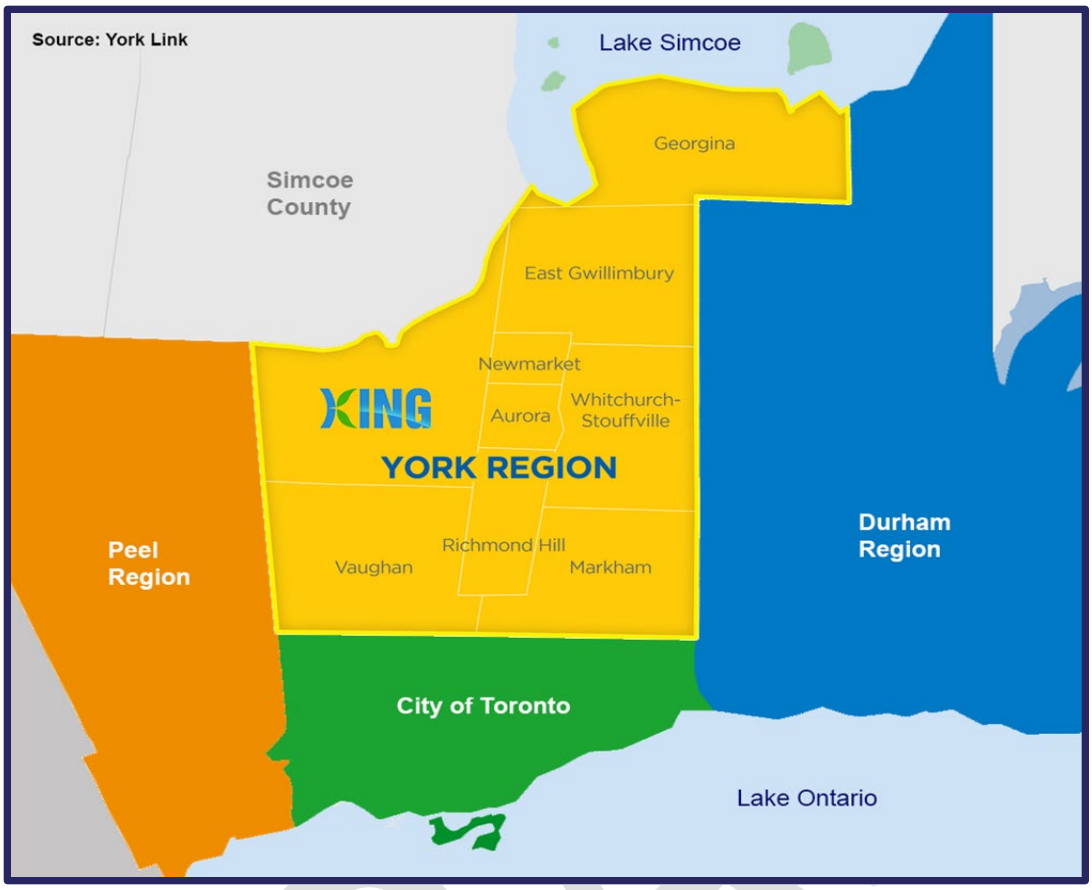
Call Volume – For King Township

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fire Station 34	476	567	609	633	680
Fire Station 36	370	426	500	483	464
Fire Station 38	249	292	334	337	395
Total	**1,095**	**1,285**	**1,443**	**1453**	**1539**



About King Township

King Township is a vibrant and predominantly rural municipality located in York Region, just north of Toronto. It spans approximately 333 square kilometres and is characterized by the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the fertile lands of the Holland Marsh. As of 2025, King Township has an estimated population of 29,822, reflecting steady growth from 27,333 in 2021. The township includes the communities of King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg, and is known for its agricultural heritage, equestrian culture, and natural beauty. With its proximity to urban centres and increasing residential development, King continues to evolve, bringing new challenges and opportunities for municipal services, including fire and emergency response.



Service levels

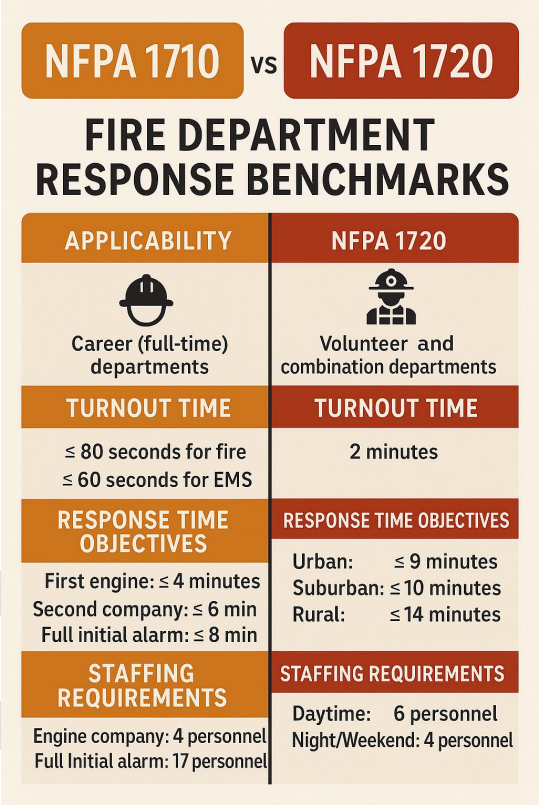
The level of service for King Fire & Emergency Services (KFES) is defined through the Township's Establishing and Regulating (E&R) By-law, which outlines the type and scope of fire protection services provided to the community. This includes measurable service standards, staffing composition, and operational expectations aligned with legislative requirements and recognized industry best practices.

KFES operates as a paid-on-call fire department and strives to meet the intent of **NFPA 1720 – Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments**. While NFPA standards are not legislated in Ontario, they are widely regarded as benchmarks for performance and safety.

For comparison, **NFPA 1710** applies to **career fire departments** and sets more stringent response time and staffing requirements. NFPA 1710 recommends a response time of 240 seconds (4 minutes) for the first arriving engine company and a minimum of four firefighters per engine. In contrast, NFPA 1720 provides scalable response benchmarks based on

population density and allows for more flexibility in staffing and response times, recognizing the operational realities of volunteer and paid-on-call departments like KFES.

KFES aligns its service delivery model with NFPA 1720 to ensure effective emergency response while maintaining compliance with local regulations and optimizing available resources.



NFPA 1720 Response Benchmarks

- **Urban Areas** (population density > 1,000 people/mi^2):
  15 firefighters on scene within 9 minutes, 90% of the time.
- **Suburban Areas** (500–1,000 people/mi^2):
  10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes, 80% of the time.
- **Rural Areas** (< 500 people/mi^2):
  6 firefighters on scene within 14 minutes, 80% of the time.
- **Remote Areas** (> 8 miles from a fire station):
  4 firefighters on scene, assemble an attack within 2 minutes of arrival, 90% of the time.

Given the Township of King's population density (82.3 persons/km^2 overall, with higher densities in King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg), KFES primarily falls under the **rural** and **suburban** categories. Therefore, the service level goal is to have:

- **10 firefighters on scene within 10 minutes** in built-up areas (King City, Nobleton, Schomberg).
- **6 firefighters on scene within 14 minutes** in rural areas.

Service Level Objectives

- Maintain compliance with the **Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)** and the Township's E&R By-law.
- Ensure adequate staffing and apparatus deployment to meet NFPA 1720 benchmarks where practical.
- Monitor and report on turnout times, travel times, and assembly times using the **80th percentile performance measure**, as recommended by NFPA and the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).
- Continuously review service levels in response to population growth, call volume trends, and community risk assessments.

Continuous Improvement

To sustain service levels, KFES will:

- Conduct annual reviews of response performance and report findings to Council.
- Implement process improvements and technology upgrades to reduce response times.
- Explore staffing models, including the introduction of a hybrid composite contingent, to address daytime coverage challenges.
- Align training and certification programs with NFPA standards to ensure operational readiness.

Fire Stations – The Future

Introduction

As the Township of King continues to experience significant population growth and urban intensification, the demand for fire protection and emergency services is increasing at an unprecedented rate. Between 2016 and 2021, the Township's population grew by over 11%, and projections indicate continued expansion, particularly in King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg. This growth brings with it new residential developments, higher-density housing, and increased commercial activity—all of which elevate community risk and place greater demands on emergency response capabilities.

Fire stations are the backbone of an effective fire and emergency services system. Their strategic location, capacity, and functionality directly influence response times, firefighter safety, and the ability to meet recognized industry standards such as NFPA 1720. As call volumes rise—expected to surpass 1,800 annually in 2025—existing facilities face mounting pressure to accommodate modern apparatus, additional personnel, and specialized training needs. Without strategic and timely investment in fire station infrastructure, the township faces increased risk of delayed emergency response, diminished service capacity, and heightened vulnerability to threats against life safety and property.

This section outlines why expanding and modernizing fire stations is critical to sustaining community safety, supporting future growth, and ensuring compliance with legislative and best practice standards.

Fire Station 38 -- 5926 King Road

Firehouse 38, built in 1996, is nearing the end of its functional life and is located on an irregular lot with no room for expansion. The current facility cannot accommodate modern apparatus or additional bays, limiting operational flexibility and is significantly limited for parking options, with only adequate spaces for 20% of the fire fighters. With Nobleton experiencing significant residential growth and increased call volumes, the station's limitations pose a risk to response times and firefighter safety. Additionally, the lack of space prevents the addition of an aerial apparatus, which is critical for servicing multi-storey developments in the area.

Strategic Opportunity

Firehouse 38 is **ideally located between the other KFES stations**, making it the optimal site for a **new headquarters facility**. Centralizing administrative and operational leadership at this location will:

- Improve coordination across divisions.
- Reduce travel time for senior staff between stations.
- Provide space for modern administrative offices, and meeting rooms.
- Reduce the need for reduce the need for renovation at station 34 with projected savings of 1.5 million.

Objectives

- Replace Firehouse 38 with a **modern, multi-functional headquarters** that meets current and future operational needs.
- Ensure compliance with post-disaster building standards and accessibility requirements.
- Provide adequate space for apparatus, firefighter wellness, and administrative functions.
- Explore opportunities for shared facilities with EMS and York Regional Police to maximize efficiency.

Proposed Solution

- **Acquire land** within 1–3 years for the construction of a new Firehouse 38.
- **Construct a new headquarters facility** within 4–6 years that includes:
  - **Drive-through bays with capacity for future fleet expansion.**
  - **Space for an aerial apparatus to meet the demands of taller residential and commercial structures.**
  - **Modern administrative offices for Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, and support staff.**
  - **Training and meeting rooms to reduce reliance on external facilities.**
  - **Gender-neutral locker rooms, fitness space, and negative-pressure gear storage.**

- **Energy-efficient systems and full-building backup power.**
- **Potential co-location with other emergency services for cost-sharing and operational synergy.**

Estimated Costs

- **Land Acquisition:** $1.0 – $1.6 million
- **Construction:** $7 – $15 million
- **Funding Strategy:** Development Charges, reserve contributions, and potential partnerships with York Region.

Benefits

- **Centralized Headquarters:** Improves operational efficiency, centralize locations for supplies and communication across KFES.
- **Futureproofing:** Facility designed for 40+ years of service, accommodating population growth and evolving fire service needs.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Shared facility opportunities with EMS and YRP can reduce capital and operating costs.
- **Community Safety:** Ability to house an aerial apparatus improves fire suppression capabilities for multi-storey buildings.

Timeline

- **Short-Term (1–3 years):** Land acquisition and reserve fund establishment.
- **Mid to Long-Term (4–6 years):** Design and construction of the new Firehouse 38 headquarters.

Fire Station 3-6 -- 91 Proctor Road

Fire station 3-6, located in Schomberg, was established in 1994 in a repurposed boat manufacturing facility. The original building was built in 1987. While it has served the community as a fire station for over 30 years, the building is approaching the end of its functional life. The facility lacks the capacity to accommodate modern apparatus, has no room for expansion, and does not meet current post-disaster building standards. Additionally, the emergency generator does not energize the entire building and requires manual activation, creating operational risks during power outages.

With the Township of King experiencing significant growth—Schomberg and surrounding areas—the demand for emergency services is increasing due to increased traffic on Highway 9 and the expansion of Highway 400 to 10 lanes. Call volumes have risen steadily, and projections indicate continued growth, placing additional strain on an already outdated facility and firefighters.

Objectives

- Replace Fire Station 3-6 with a modern facility that meets current and future operational needs.
- Ensure compliance with Ontario Building Code post-disaster standards.
- Provide adequate space for apparatus, training, and firefighter wellness.

Proposed Solution

- **Acquire land / or a perform study** for options to acquire or rebuild on current land within 4-6 years to discover the best location for the construction of a new Fire Station or Station 3-6.
- **Construct a new facility** within 6-10 years that includes:
    - Drive-through apparatus bays with capacity for future fleet expansion.
    - Modern amenities such as gender-neutral locker rooms, fitness space, and negative-pressure gear storage.
    - Energy-efficient systems and backup power capable of energizing the entire building.

Estimated Costs

- **Land Acquisition:** $900,000 – $1.3 million

- **Construction:** $7 – $15 million (depending on size and amenities)
- **Funding Strategy:** Development Charges, reserve contributions, and potential grants.

Benefits

- **Health & Safety:** Modern design mitigates risks associated with outdated infrastructure.
- **Futureproofing:** Facility designed for 40+ years of service, accommodating population growth and evolving fire service needs.

Fire Station 3-2 -- Co-Location: Joint Operation Center

The Township of King is experiencing sustained population growth, increased traffic volumes, and significant development along major transportation corridors, particularly Highway 400. These factors have created service gaps in the northeast quadrant of the Township, where emergency response currently relies heavily on automatic aid (paid of service) from neighboring municipalities. This dependency introduces delays and operational risks during critical incidents.

Key Drivers for the New Fire Station:

- **Coverage Gap:** Current fire station locations leave portions of the Township outside the recommended NFPA 1720 response benchmarks. A new fire station close to the 400 will expand 10-minute coverage to approximately **90% of the Township**, significantly improving emergency response capability.
- **Highway Incident Volume:** Highway 400 is a major transportation route with frequent motor vehicle collisions and hazardous material incidents. Proximity to this corridor will reduce response times and improve life safety outcomes.
- **Coverage:** with the creation of the fourth hall KFES will be able to cover the gap of coverage in the Noth east of the township that KFES is presently reliant for coverage from neighbouring fire services with a paid for service Model
- **Population Growth:** Forecasts indicate continued residential and commercial development in the northern and eastern areas of King, increasing call volumes and complexity of incidents.

Strategic Benefits:

- Enhances public safety by reducing response times for fire suppression, medical emergencies, and technical rescues.

- Reduces reliance on external fire protection agreements, improving operational independence and resilience.
- Supports future growth and aligns with the Township's long-term Fire Master Plan objectives.

Fire Station 3-4 -- 2045 King Road

Fire Station 3-4 is presently the HQ for the KFES (King Fire and Emergency Services) is present the busiest fire station with a projected call volume of over 800 requests for service this year.

The station is in **excellent condition**, but **space is becoming an issue**:

- No room for additional apparatus in the current bays.
- Limited administrative space: there are no boards rooms or meeting rooms.
- There is presently no dedicated training room for the fire fighters for their bi-weekly training.
- Administration spaces are cramped and shared, even for high-ranking officers presently share an office space there is no additional space for growth.
- There are no office spaces for station leadership.

Objectives

- Maintain the existing footprint of Station 3-4.
- Optimize the fleet to better support the growth of King City.
- Streamline the fleet by combining apparatus (e.g., Pumper-Tankers, Rapid Intervention Vehicles) to reduce the need for additional bays.
- Transition Fire Station 3-4 from a rural to a suburban response model, reducing the number of tankers and aligning resources with community growth.

Benefits

- Allows Fire Station 3-4 to continue to operate as it is for the next decade.

Recommendations

Location	**Recommendations**
Fire Station 38 – 5926 King Road	• Acquire land within 1–3 years; explore co-location with EMS and York Regional Police for cost-sharing. • Replace with a new headquarters facility on a new site within 4–6 years. • Explore land options within the next 1-3 years
Fire Station 36 – 91 Proctor Road	• Acquire land within 2-5 years for a new station in Schomberg area. • Design and construct a modern facility within–8 years
Fire Station 32 – New Location (Joint Operation Center)	• Secure land and initiate design for a new station • Co-locate live-fire training facility to optimize land and utilities. • Design for future growth: drive-through bays, training rooms, and modern amenities.
Fire Station 34 – 2045 King Road	• **Do not expand** the current footprint; repurpose existing spaces when required. • **Relocate administrative staff** to the future Station 38 HQ to free up space. • **Optimize fleet** by introducing multi-functional apparatus (pumper-tankers, RIVs) to reduce bay requirements. • **Transition to suburban response model**: reduce reliance on tankers and align resources with King City growth.

Training Center

The ability to perform effectively and safely on the fireground depends on rigorous, realistic, and continuous training. While classroom instruction and simulations provide foundational knowledge, **live fire training remains the cornerstone of firefighter preparedness**, offering direct experience in conditions that closely replicate real emergencies. This type of training allows firefighters to develop critical skills such as fire behavior recognition, hose advancement, ventilation techniques, and incident command operations under controlled but realistic conditions. Without these opportunities, both new recruits and seasoned firefighters risk skill degradation, which can compromise operational safety and effectiveness during actual incidents.

Ontario's **mandatory firefighter certification regulation (O. Reg. 343/22)** reinforces this need by requiring firefighters to meet **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards**, including NFPA 1001 for Firefighter Levels I and II, and NFPA 1072 for hazardous materials operations. These standards mandate practical competencies that cannot be fully achieved through theory alone—they require live fire evolutions to demonstrate proficiency in interior and exterior fire attack, search and rescue, and hazard mitigation. The **Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM)**, as the authority having jurisdiction, ensures that all certifications align with NFPA standards and are validated through practical evaluations at accredited facilities.

A dedicated live fire training facility for KFES will:

- **Support compliance** with provincial certification requirements and NFPA standards.
- **Provide ongoing skill maintenance** for existing members, ensuring readiness for evolving fire dynamics and building construction hazards.

- **Enhance safety** by allowing firefighters to practice high-risk tasks in a controlled environment that meets NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions.
- **Improve recruitment and retention**, offering new firefighters access to high-quality, local training without reliance on external facilities.

Investing in a live fire training facility is a strategic necessity. It ensures operational excellence, regulatory compliance, and firefighter safety in an era of increasing complexity and accountability. Moreover, **this investment is essential to sustain and strengthen our current paid-on-call firefighting model**, allowing us to continue hiring and retaining skilled personnel who are vital to our community's emergency response capabilities.

Proposed Solution

Build an NFPA 1403–compliant live fire training facility, ideally collocated with a KFES station (e.g., new station 32 located near the Joint Operation Center) to optimize land, utilities, centralized location from all training and operations. Key components:

- **Burn Building/Training Tower (2–3 storeys).** Class-A and propane-fired burn rooms; instructor control/observation; roof/ventilation prop; standpipe/sprinkler props; stair/attack cells.
- **Technical & Fireground Props.** Forcible entry, SCBA maze, exterior draft pit, vehicle fire pad, gas fire simulators, decon area—supporting core Firefighter I/II and HazMat tasks.
- **Classroom & Support Spaces.** Briefing/after action rooms, gear drying/rehab, safety systems (thermal monitoring, gas detection), site hydrant loop—enabling end-to-end evolutions in one location. Co-location with other municipal facilities may allow for further savings by constructing multi-use training rooms.
- **Governance & SOPs.** NFPA 1403 compliant procedures; NFPA **1041** Instructor certification for trainers; ICS and accountability practices aligned with OFM expectations and evaluation records.

Benefits

- **Compliance & readiness.** Meets **O. Reg. 343/22** timelines; improves pass rates; reduces re-test costs; sustains readiness as standards evolve.

- **Safety.** NFPA 1403–controlled evolutions reduce training risk compared with ad hoc acquired structures; builds muscle memory for high-risk/low-frequency tasks.
- **Capacity & access.** More live-fire hours per member; less travel/overtime; better access for paid-on-call members; smoother scheduling.
- **Talent & retention.** High-quality local training and defined instructor/officer pathways strengthen recruitment and retention.
- **Community value.** Helps sustain and strengthen our current paid-on-call firefighting model; potential **regional cost recovery** through rentals and courses; supports community education demos.

Program Delivery: New Recruits & Incumbents

- **Recruit pipeline.** Live-fire evolutions spanning fire behavior, interior/exterior attack, search/VEIS, hose streams, water supply, RIT awareness (NFPA **1001**), plus **NFPA 1072** HazMat practical's.
- **Incumbent competency maintenance.** Annual/biannual refreshers on hose line management, transitional attack, ventilation coordination, thermal layering/flow-path control, integrated company drills and command simulations.
- **Instructor development. NFPA 1041** Level I/II pathways, lesson plan standardization, and dedicated incident safety officer roles consistent with best practice

Recommendations

Build an NFPA 1403–Compliant Live Fire Training Facility	• Construct a dedicated training center that meets NFPA 1403 standards for live fire training. • Include burn building/training tower (2–3 storeys) with Class A and propane props, ventilation props, standpipe/sprinkler systems, and SCBA maze.

	• Add technical props for forcible entry, confined space, vehicle fire, and hazmat scenarios. • Provide classrooms, briefing rooms, gear drying, and rehab areas for complete training cycles.
Co-Locate with New Station 32	• Integrate the training center into the Station 32 site at the JOC. • Design shared infrastructure (parking, utilities, hydrant loop) to minimize duplication.

Apparatus – The Future

Introduction

As the Township of King continues to grow and diversify, the demands on King Fire & Emergency Services (KFES) have evolved significantly. Increased call volumes, larger residential structures, and more complex commercial developments require a modern, flexible, and efficient fleet. The current apparatus mix, while well-maintained, was designed for a different era of service delivery and does not fully align with today's operational realities or future growth projections.

Modern fire service best practices emphasize **multi-functional, right-sized vehicles** that can perform multiple roles, reduce fleet size, and lower lifecycle costs without compromising service levels. Transitioning from single-purpose units to combination apparatus—such as pumper/tankers and pumper/rescue units—will enhance operational efficiency, improve response capabilities, and optimize capital investment. This strategic shift will also support the Township's financial sustainability by reducing duplication, minimizing maintenance costs, and ensuring apparatus replacement cycles align with NFPA and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) standards.

This section outlines the rationale for updating KFES's apparatus strategy, the benefits of adopting a dual-use vehicle model, and the long-term implications for service delivery, cost efficiency, and community safe.

Problem Statement

- KFES currently operates a mix of **single-purpose vehicles** (dedicated pumpers, tankers, and rescues), which increases fleet size and maintenance costs.
- Limited apparatus bay space in existing stations restricts the ability to add new units without significant facility upgrades.
- The cost of new apparatus has escalated significantly, with pumpers exceeding **$1 million** and aerial devices approaching **$2.6 million**, making fleet optimization critical.

Proposed Change

KFES proposes the following apparatus modernization strategy:

- Adopt dual-use apparatus such as pumper/tankers and pumper/rescue units.

- Introduce smaller quick-response units for medical and light rescue calls.

- Align replacement cycles with NFPA 1901 and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) recommendations.

- Integrate apparatus planning with new station designs to ensure adequate bay space.

Benefits?

- Capital Savings: Reducing fleet size by consolidating functions into combination units lowers total apparatus purchases over time.

- Lifecycle Cost Reduction: Fewer vehicles mean lower maintenance, insurance, and storage costs.

- Funding Strategy: Leverage Development Charges for growth-related apparatus and maintain a dedicated reserve for replacements.

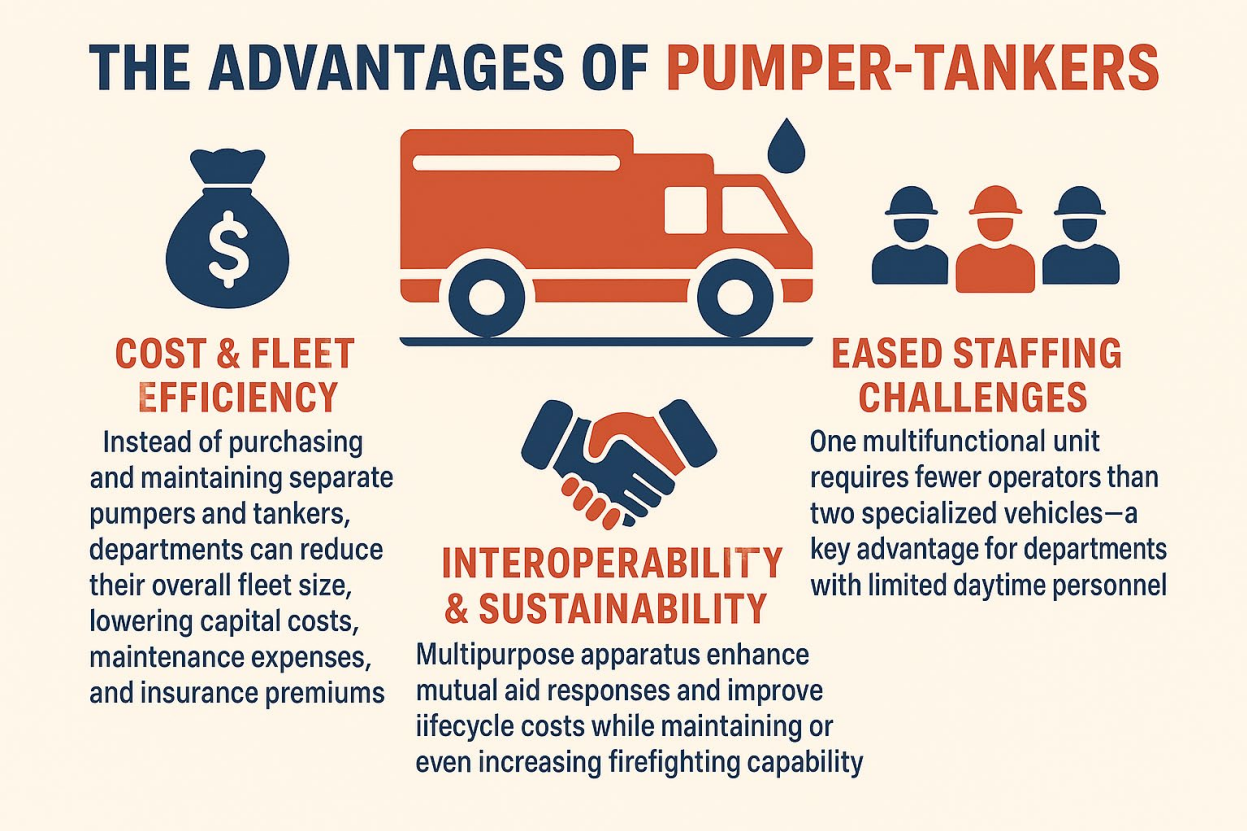
Pumper Tanker

Pumper-tankers combine the capabilities of a traditional fire engine (pumper) and a water tanker into a single, versatile unit. This dual functionality allows departments to **transport large volumes of water**—often between 2000 and 3,000 gallons—while also providing **full pumping capability** (typically 1250–2,000 GPM), enabling immediate fire attack without waiting for additional apparatus. This is particularly critical in rural or semi-urban areas where hydrant infrastructure is limited ideal for Nobleton and Schomberg stations. By integrating hose storage, drafting capability, and rescue equipment pumper-tankers can establish a sustained water supply quickly, reducing response times and improving operational efficiency in rural, urban and wildland firefighting scenarios.

Beyond tactical flexibility, pumper-tankers deliver **significant cost and fleet efficiency benefits**. Instead of purchasing and maintaining separate pumpers and tankers,

departments can reduce their overall fleet size, which lowers **capital costs, maintenance expenses, and insurance premiums**.

This consolidation also eases staffing challenges, as one multifunctional unit requires fewer operators than two specialized vehicles—a key advantage for departments with limited daytime personnel. According to industry experts, multipurpose apparatus like pumper-tankers enhance interoperability during mutual aid responses and improve long-term sustainability by reducing lifecycle costs while maintaining or even increasing firefighting capability.



Expanded Advantages of Pumper-Tankers

- Consolidate functions: One unit serves as both attack pumper and water supply, reducing fleet size.
- Capital & lifecycle savings: Fewer purchases and lower operating costs over time.
- Supports Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) accreditation and insurance benefits.
- Improves staffing efficiency: One driver instead of two for separate units.
- Enhance interoperability during mutual aid responses.
- Reduces bay space requirements in constrained fire stations.

- Simplifies spare apparatus strategy and improves resilience.
- Streamline training and parts inventory through standardization.

Rapid intervention

Rapid Intervention Vehicles (RIVs), also known as Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs), are compact, highly maneuverable units designed for **fast deployment in emergencies**. Their smaller size allows them to **navigate congested urban streets, narrow rural roads, and off-road terrain** where traditional fire engines may struggle. This agility significantly reduces response times, enabling crews to **initiate fire suppression or rescue operations before larger apparatus arrives**, which can be critical in preventing escalation of incidents.

Strategically, due to our current operational model and limitations with daytime availability of personnel, these types of vehicles can be the first response to many of our incidents allowing for secondary vehicles to arrive without diminishing service levels.

RIVs are **cost-effective and versatile**, often equipped with **advanced firefighting systems** such as Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) or water mist technology, which deliver effective fire suppression with minimal water use—ideal for areas with limited water supply. They also carry essential rescue tools and medical equipment, making them suitable for **multi-role response**, including EMS, vehicle extrication, and small-scale fire incidents. Departments adopting RIVs report **lower operating costs**, improved fuel efficiency, and reduced wear on heavy apparatus, while maintaining operational capability. This makes them an excellent solution for **staffing challenges**, as they require fewer personnel to operate compared to full-size engines, and they help **extend the life of larger apparatus** by managing some lower risk calls.

Advantages of RIVs / QRVs

- Cost-effective to purchase and operate, with lower fuel consumption and maintenance costs compared to full-size engines.

- Versatile deployment for EMS calls, vehicle extrications, small-scale fires, and public education events.
- Reduces wear and tear on heavy apparatus by handling lower-risk calls and frequent medical responses.
- Requires fewer personnel to operate, helping address daytime staffing challenges in paid-on-call departments.
- Supports Community Risk Reduction (CRR) initiatives by enabling rapid outreach and inspection capabilities.

Recommendations

Apparatus	Recommendations
Transition to Multi-Functional Apparatus	• Adopt pumper-tankers and pumper/rescue units to consolidate functions and reduce fleet size. • Align replacement cycles with NFPA 1901 and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) standards. • Standardize specifications to streamline training, maintenance, and parts inventory.
Introduce Pumper-Tankers	• Order two pumper-tankers to replace 4 existing aging apparatus into fleet plan for Stations 36, and 38.
Deploy Rapid Intervention / Quick Response Vehicle	• Build out three RIV/QRV in 2026 with existing fleet of utilities trucks to increase capabilities
Fleet Optimization Strategy	• Reduce underutilized utility trucks and upgrade to multi-role units. • Update 10-year fleet plan to reflect combination apparatus and station bay constraints.
Funding & Procurement for Apparatus	• Ensure all appropriate vehicles are included in the development charges update (2025) • Maintain a dedicated apparatus reserve for replacements.

	• Start procurement early due to 2–3 year delivery timelines

Conclusion

King Fire & Emergency Services stands at a critical juncture as our community continues to grow and evolve. This Short-Term Master Plan provides a clear, actionable roadmap to modernize our infrastructure, enhance training capabilities, and optimize our fleet to meet the increasing demands of King Township. By strategically investing in new fire stations, a dedicated live fire training facility, and multi-functional apparatus, we will strengthen our operational readiness, improve response times, and ensure firefighter and public safety.

These initiatives are essential to maintaining service levels, meeting legislative requirements, and preparing for future growth. Through careful planning, phased implementation, and responsible funding strategies, KFES will continue to deliver efficient, cost-effective, and high-quality emergency services. Together, these efforts will position our department to protect lives, property, and the community we proudly serve—today and for decades to come.