



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

Leading innovation and excellence in public and life safety

February 5, 2024

Director Gene Thompson
Fire Chief
Brighton District Fire Department

RE: 2024 Mandate Letter

Dear Director Thompson,

Thank you for your commitment to serving as an Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) Director. The O AFC plays an important role in ensuring firefighter and public safety, and your dedication and willingness to do more will leave an enduring legacy on the Ontario Fire Service.

The purpose of this letter is to outline the O AFC's priorities and expectations for the upcoming year, and to provide an open, transparent and formal mandate to you for the 2024 term specific to your areas of designated responsibility.

For the 2024 term, the O AFC has the following priorities that Directors are tasked with supporting and achieving:

- Improving member engagement & communication, including re-imagining the Provincial Advisory Committees and how to engage and represent members from all fire departments.
- Ensuring the continued success of O AFC events, and modernizing the Conference and Trade Show to ensure that it provides value to all members.
- Re-evaluating and improving member services and Chief Officer support, including completion of a "Chief Officer 101" program and implementation of a Chief Officer Peer Support Program.
- Strengthening our government relations & advocacy, including hosting another Queens Park Advocacy Day, having an increased presence at the AMO conference, maintaining regular engagement with key Ministries and providing all members with government relations speaking points to ensure consistent messaging.
- Ensuring effective business operations for the O AFC & OFAI, including ensuring staff are supported, diversification of revenue, and improvements to the Candidate Testing Services program.
- Conducting a comprehensive governance review, including constitution, code of conduct, election process and resolution process; and ensure adherence to the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).

For the 2024 term, in addition to your role as a Director, I am appointing you as the Board Chair of the Rural Suburban Committee, as the Board Alternate of the Membership Committee, as a member of the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention Working Group, as a member of the MTO Working Group and as a Liaison for the Firefighters Association of Ontario (FFAO) and the various volunteer firefighter unions.



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My expectations, as it relates to the oversight of the Rural Suburban Committee, is as follows:

- The Rural Suburban Committee will meet quarterly (at minimum) with at least one in person meeting at the AGM
- Those meetings will be scheduled in advance for 2024 so that attendees have them locked into their calendars
- As the Board Chair, you are responsible for preparing the agenda and distributing it at least one week in advance of the meeting
- As the Board Chair, you are responsible for preparing meeting minutes and distributing them at least four weeks following the meeting
- In addition to these meetings, you shall maintain regular dialogue with the Rural Suburban Committee members, ensuring the OAFChiefs remains aware of emerging issues and offers support to members as quickly and effectively as possible

In addition to the Rural Suburban Committee expectations, I ask that you be the Board Alternate for the Membership Committee and assist the Board Chair with meeting their mandate, as well as replacing them as required.

Specific to your role as a Liaison to the Firefighters Association of Ontario (FFAO) and the various volunteer firefighter unions, these relationships and partnerships are key to our success and as a liaison, our expectation is that you maintain an open line of communication and engage these groups as required.

Specific to your roles as a member of the Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment & Retention Working Group and the MTO Working Group, these are incredibly important roles and under the leadership of the working group chairs, the expectation is that you will attend meetings and contribute to the meaningful work that these groups do for the betterment of the Ontario Fire Service.

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, thank you for your contributions to making the Ontario Fire Service better and safer.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Grimwood'.

Deputy Chief Rob Grimwood
President

cc: Jeremy Parkin, Vice President
Mark MacDonald, Executive Director