

Regular Council Meeting

To:	Mayor and Council
Date:	June 2, 2025
From:	Bill Balfour, Fire Chief
Report Number:	Fire Department 2025-04
Subject:	Fire Department Line of Duty Death Policy

Recommendations:

1. That Council support the Fire Department Policy regarding Line of Duty Deaths, in alignment with Ontario's Presumptive Legislation under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act; and
2. That Council approves an upset limit of \$3,000.00 from the Emergency Equipment Reserve for the installation of the Memorial Monument at Fire Station No. 1.

Overview:

The recent passing of a dedicated Fire Captain has been classified as a line-of-duty death under Ontario's Presumptive Legislation within the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. This legislation acknowledges various recognized cancers, including those affecting the lungs, bladder, kidneys, and blood (e.g., leukemia) with eligibility determined based on years of service. It is intended to provide timely support to firefighters and their families by streamlining the claims process and recognizing the heightened risks associated with firefighting, such as exposure to carcinogens, smoke, and hazardous materials.

An application has been submitted by the Fire Chief's Office to have Captain Orville Thertell honoured at the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial. With the consent of the captain's family, his service will also be recognized at the Provincial level at the Firefighters' Monument in Ottawa in October 2026.

To honour this sacrifice and others, the Fire Chief is requesting the installation of a local monument at Fire Station No. 1 to recognize all members of the Cavan Monaghan Fire Department. The Fire Firefighters Association has agreed to participate in this initiative and is supportive of contributing funds towards this Memorial Monument project. A sample concept (Attachment No. 1) has been submitted for review. The final design will be developed in consultation with the local Firefighters' Association, Fire Chief, and Township Administration. This monument would commemorate the dedication and symbolize the Township's ongoing commitment to recognizing such service. The monument will be located at Fire Station No. 1 grounds and will serve to honour future firefighters who meet the criteria for a line-of-duty death policy.

This project has been adopted by other municipalities. The Fire Chief will ensure that Fire Department policies are implemented as identified in the Ontario's Presumptive Legislation within the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. The criteria includes:

Line of Duty Deaths:

A member's name will be added to the memorial if their death occurs:

- While actively performing their official duties.
- As a direct result of injuries or incidents sustained in the line of duty.

Presumptive Cancer Legislation:

A member's name will also be included if their death is attributed to one of the cancers recognized under Ontario's Presumptive Legislation for firefighters, provided:

The member meets the eligibility requirements as defined by the legislation (e.g., sufficient years of service in firefighting roles, and diagnosis of an eligible cancer type).

By incorporating this commemorative feature at Fire Station No. 1, the Township can appropriately honour the contributions of a dedicated Fire Captain and future members who meet the criteria.

Financial Impact:

The total cost of the monument will be \$6,000. The Firefighters' Association has committed to contributing 50% of the total cost and staff is recommending the remaining \$3,000 be funding through Emergency Equipment Reserve.

Attachment:

No. 1 Monument Sample Concept

Respectfully Submitted by,

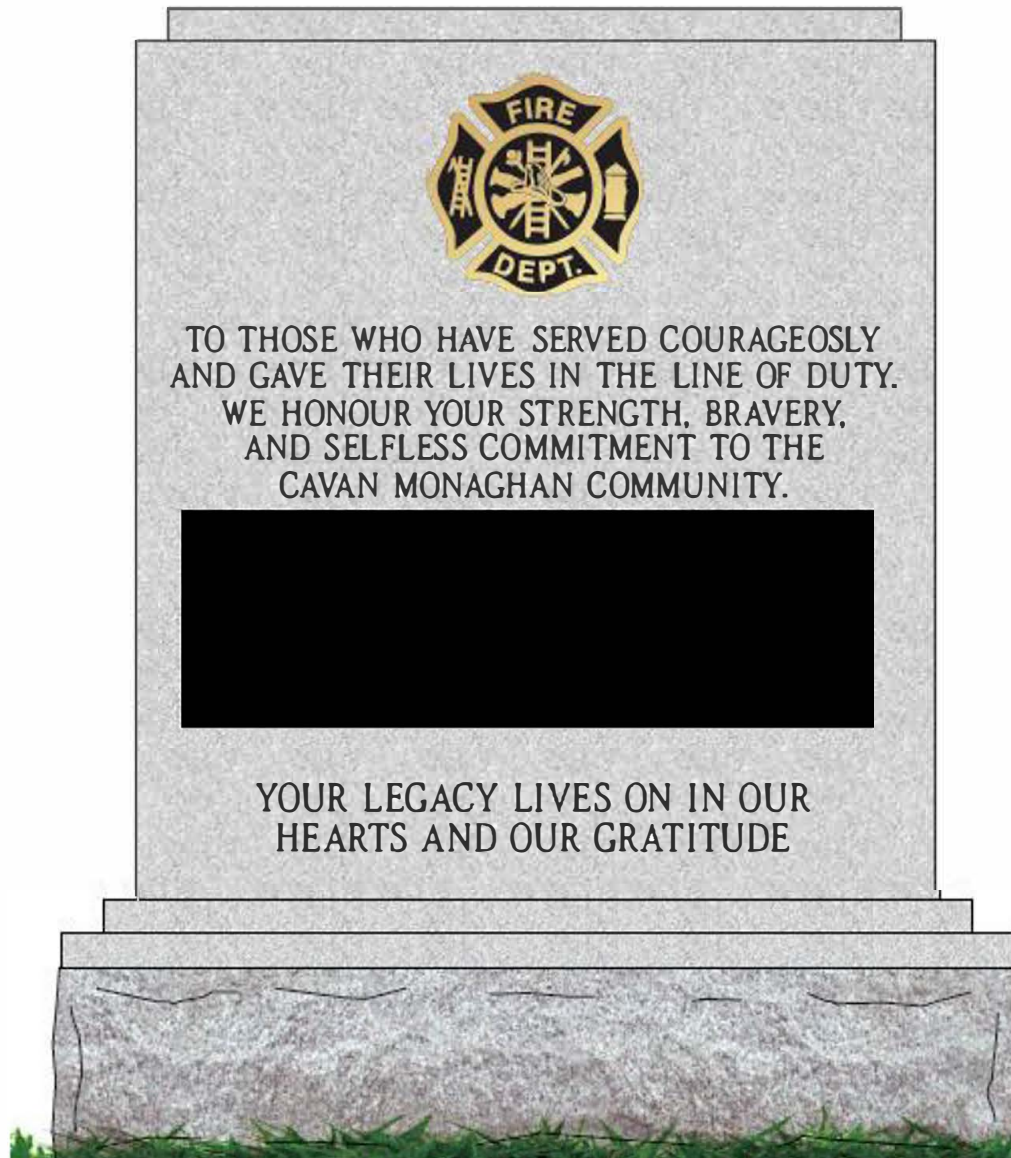
Bill Balfour
Fire Chief

Reviewed by,

Yvette Hurley
Chief Administrative Officer

Monument Sample Concept

Front



Side

