



Policy 108
FIRE SERVICES

1. Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is provide for the annual municipal registration of Kentville Volunteer Fire Department, as well as establishment of a fire area rate for capital purchases for the Department.

2. Policy Application

This policy shall apply solely to Kentville Volunteer Fire Department, and any successors according to law.

3. Definitions

- a. "Fire Chief" means Fire Chief of Kentville Volunteer Fire Department.
- b. "Kentville Volunteer Fire Department" means the Kentville Volunteer Fire Department incorporated under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia.
- c. "Town" shall mean Town of Kentville.

4. Legislation

Section 294 of the *Municipal Government Act* states

- (1) A body corporate may apply to a municipality for registration as a fire department.
- (2) A municipality shall not refuse to register a body corporate that complies with this Act if the
 - (a) municipality is satisfied that the body corporate is capable of providing the services it offers to provide;
 - (b) body corporate carries liability insurance, as required by the municipality;
 - (c) body corporate does not provide the fire services for profit; and
 - (d) municipality does not provide the same services for the same area.
- (3) A fire department, including a fire department of a municipality, village or fire protection district, shall register in each municipality in which it provides emergency services.
- (4) A registered fire department shall provide the municipality with a list of specific emergency services it will endeavour to provide and the area in which the services will be provided.

- (5) Registration continues in force until withdrawn by the municipality for cause or the fire department requests that the registration be revoked.
- (6) A municipality may grant or lend money to, or guarantee a loan for, a registered fire department for operating or capital purposes.
- (7) A municipality may grant or lend assets, without charge, to a registered fire department.
- (8) Registration does not make a fire department an agent of a municipality.
- (9) A registered fire department is not a municipal enterprise pursuant to the Finance Act.

Section 48 of the Municipal Government Act states that

- (1) Before a policy is passed, amended or repealed the council shall give at least seven days notice to all council members.
- (3) In addition to matters specified in this Act or another Act of the Legislature, the council may adopt policies on any matter that the council considers conducive to the effective management of the municipality.

5. Fire Services Registration

- a. Fire Chief of Kentville Volunteer Fire Department shall annually apply for registration as a fire service provider within Town of Kentville, by filling out and submitting the required form as designated by the Town from time to time.
- b. The application for fire service registration shall be submitted by January 31st of each year for the following year, and include the services to be provided and the qualifications held to provide such services.
- c. Prior to March 31st of each year, the Town shall review Kentville Volunteer Fire Department's application for fire service registration and either approve, decline, or seek further clarification for such application.

6. Fire Capital Area Rate

- a. Town of Kentville agrees to levy an area rate of 4.5 cents per one hundred dollars of assessment on all taxable properties within the Town each year beginning on April 1, 2026, to be provided to Kentville Volunteer Fire Department for the acquisition of fire fighting capital assets only.
- b. Notwithstanding Section 6a, the Town shall levy a 4% administration fee for the billing, collection, and remittance of the fire capital area rate, with such fee to be withheld by the Town according to the same pro-rated percentage of scheduled payments throughout the year.

- c. Payment of the fire capital area rate shall be as denoted in the agreement between Town of Kentville and Kentville Volunteer Fire Department entered into in January 2026.

7. Repeal

Policy G13, Fire Area Rate, approved on the 24th day of January, 2017, is hereby repealed.

Policy G8, Registration of Fire and Emergency Service, approved on the 24th day of January, 2017, is hereby repealed.

Policy G15, Fire Protection Rate, approved on the 24th day of January, 2017, is hereby repealed.

Seven Day Notice of Policy: January 12, 2026

Council Approval: January 26, 2026

In Effect: January 26, 2026

This is to certify that Policy 108, Fire Services, was approved by Town Council on the 26th day of January, 2026.

Original signed by Andrew Zebian

Mayor

Original signed by Chris McNeill

Clerk