

COMMUNICATION 134058

Received From: Pascal Meunier, Director of Protective Services
Addressed To: Committee of the Whole
Date: June 6, 2023
Topic: Proposed Upgrade to Fire Department Vehicle Fleet

SUMMARY

The Carleton Place Fire Department's second responding pumper was on the long-term capital budget to be replaced in 2020 due to end of life of the asset. Staff postponed the replacement to conduct a comprehensive review of the existing fleet to ensure the Department has the proper vehicles to serve and protect the Town's residents for the next 20 years. The review took into consideration the Town's growth, technology in new vehicles, a comparison with industry standards and determined how to balance these requirements with fiscal responsibility. During the 2023 budget process, staff was asked by Council to bring forward a separate report to discuss the proposed fleet change.

Staff recommend Council approve the Carleton Place Fire Department's (CPFD) fleet change Option 1 which would result in significant long-term savings and serve the residents of Carleton Place more efficiently.

BACKGROUND

During a thorough fleet review of the CPFD's vehicles, it was determined that the Department can be more efficient and provide better service to the residents while at the same time, providing firefighters with the right equipment to perform their job safely while remaining fiscally responsible resulting in long-term cost savings.

The Fire Department's long-term capital budget for vehicle replacement follows the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) Service Schedule for Fire Apparatus for Fire Insurance Grading Purposes. By following the survey, the Department maintains a lower insurance cost, which ensures the Department has reliable vehicles to perform its duties.

The Fire Department's current second line pumper is a 1996 Volvo pumper. This vehicle has reached its end of life and is past the apparatus age under the FUS Schedule to maintain a lower insurance rate for the Town of Carleton Place. It is important to note that the age of a vehicle is not the only factor used to calculate fire apparatus insurance premiums.

In the last few years, the fire truck industry has seen a huge increase in costs which are passed on to fire departments, and there is now a 1-2 year wait to take delivery of a new pumper. To illustrate, the frontline pumper CPFD bought six (6) years ago for \$570,000 is now selling close to \$1,000,000. In some cases, it may be possible for a fire department to secure a demo model, however, these demos sell fast and may not be available after Council makes its decision regarding this report.

DISCUSSION

After assessing the Department's fleet taking in consideration the Town's growth, new vehicle capabilities, assessing industry standards and the significant increase in pricing, staff have determined that this is a good time to revamp our current fleet to make it more efficient and gain long-term savings. In order to achieve this, Staff recommend Option 1.

The options available to Council include the following:

Option 1

Eliminate the 1996 Volvo pumper and the 2010 Spartan rescue and apply the revenue towards the purchase of the new proposed rescue-pumper truck at an approximate cost of \$990,000 plus related equipment.

This option also includes delaying the replacement of the frontline 2017 Spartan pumper from 2031 to 2037.

Option 2

Replace the expired 1996 pumper for a new pumper and leave the fleet status quo.

Option 3

Per the FUS, staff can attempt to have the 1996 pumper passed through a stringent series of tests to allow it to continue in service. The testing process is long, comes with high costs, and may not guarantee a pass even once completed. Staff could not find any fire department that had successfully undertaken this approach with a fire vehicle. Staff do not recommend this option as sourcing parts and finding a mechanic able to work on this vehicle has already proven very difficult. It is felt that money spent on bringing this vehicle up to today's standards is not a good investment of time or money.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Below is a summary of the proposed fleet upgrade.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	UNIT NO.	PROPOSED REVENUE	PROPOSED EXPENDITURE
1.	Purchase new rescue-pumper	n/a		\$990,000
2.	Sell 1996 Volvo	221	\$5,000	\$5,000
3.	Sell 2017 Spartan Rescue	240	\$150,000	\$150,000*
SUBTOTAL			\$155,000	\$835,000
PROPOSED SAVINGS			\$155,000	

*approximate amount

By making these changes now, we will eliminate one (1) unit which would save money on insurance, truck equipment, and maintenance. The estimated annual insurance and maintenance savings on the Volvo is \$15,000. By eliminating one (1) vehicle from the fleet, it would allow CPFD to purchase a multi-purpose vehicle. This would create a fleet where all three (3) fire trucks would have the capability to pump water and carry

equipment and personnel. If Option 1 is approved, the Department would be able to postpone the purchase of the new pumper scheduled in the long-term capital budget for 2031 to 2037. These replacements are currently included in the long-term financial plan to be debt financed. This change in replacement scheduling would provide significant savings over the next few years and allow money to be set aside for the purchases which need to occur after 2030.

This project would be financed internally using the Town's reserves and paid back by the Department through regular contributions to the equipment reserve.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves Option 1 for the upgrade to the Fire Department's fleet as outlined in the report from the Director of Protective Services dated June 6, 2023.

CPFD EXISTING FLEET WITH PROPOSED CHANGES

Unit 220



Unit 221 – Sell and put funds toward a rescue/pumper



Unit 210



Unit 240 – Sell and put funds toward a rescue/pumper



EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED PUMPER/RESCUE VEHICLE

