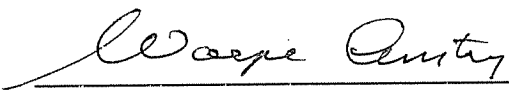


10.1.12

Halifax Regional Council
March 21, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 7, 2006

SUBJECT: Purchase of Fire Vehicles for Rural Areas - Reserve Withdrawals

ORIGIN

Staff

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council approve an increase to the 2005/06 Capital Budget in the amount of \$316,500 for the creation of 4 new projects, to be split in the following manner: Fire Rescue Unit-Zone 1 (\$57,000), Fire-Utility Vehicle-Zone 2 (\$57,000), Fire Rescue Units(2)- Zone 3(\$135,000) and Fire Rescue Unit - Zone 4 (\$67,500), with funding in the amount of \$316,500 to be provided from Rural Fire Reserve Q128.

BACKGROUND

As a result of aging vehicles, mechanical problems and gross vehicle weight issues with the current vehicles in the above noted Zones 1, 3 and 4, the Rural Operations has identified a need to replace these Units. In Zone 2, a replacement for Utility vehicle 78-171U, Stn 29 has been identified.

DISCUSSION

Over the past year or so, Fire Zones 1, 3, and 4 have been struggling with aging rescue vehicles that are becoming increasingly less reliable and efficient and more difficult to maintain as rescue vehicles. In addition, operational needs required to provide appropriate rescue response to emergencies have also gradually caused a strain on approved weight restrictions. Based on this, it was decided that the proposed purchases would allow for the optimal use of light duty rescue while accommodating the vehicle weight issues. In Zone 2, a utility vehicle has had to be removed from service due to mechanical problems. This vehicle is required for a number of tasks including transportation of personnel and backup use for rescue units. These acquisitions will not result in an increase to the fleet as all vehicles are replacement.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on an increase to the 2005/06 Capital Budget of \$316,500 for 4 new capital projects, to be split in the following manner:

Fire Rescue Unit-Zone 1	\$57,000
Fire-Utility Vehicle-Zone 2	\$57,000
Fire Rescue Units(2)- Zone 3	\$135,000
Fire Rescue Unit - Zone 4	<u>\$67,500</u>
	\$316,500

Funding is available from the Rural Fire Reserve Q128 in the amount of \$316,500. This has been confirmed by Financial Services.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating budget, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, this will increase the 2005/06 Capital Budget and the withdrawals from Reserves.

ALTERNATIVES


Not replacing the deteriorating vehicles would require responding with much larger pumpers or tankers. Since a large percentage of calls only require a rescue unit, this would cause an unreasonable amount of wear and tear on a much more expensive piece of equipment as well as potentially restricting access to some emergency situations due to their size.

ATTACHMENTS

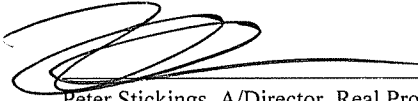
None


Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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