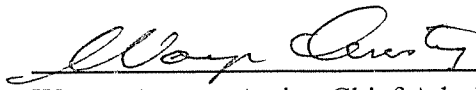


10.1.13

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: Creation of Capital Account - Purchase of a Crew Cab Utility Pick Up
Truck for Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Response

ORIGIN

Staff

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Regional Council approve an increase to the 2005/06 Capital Budget in the amount of \$65,000 for the creation of a new capital project for one new project for the purchase of a CBRN Emergency Response Vehicle with funding in the amount of \$65,000 to be provided from the Fire Vehicle Reserve Q206.

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency responds to Hazardous Materials emergencies as part of the outlined response protocols in Administration Order #24 at an operational level. A very specialized area of a Hazardous Materials response is the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) response. This Municipality has a core group of personnel trained in these responses. This is a combined HRM CBRN Response Team involving Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency and Halifax Regional Police personnel, working with RCMP, and Emergency Health Services personnel.

Through Federal, Provincial, and Municipal funding programs, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency has been able to acquire very specialized equipment, and training, in preparing to mitigate a CBRN incident. To effectively respond to a CBRN incident, a vehicle is required to transport this equipment, materials, and the personnel who are trained to use it, to any location and terrain.

DISCUSSION

The current fleet arrangement of vehicles does not permit the 24/7 dedicated use of a specialized CBRN Response Vehicle. Due to the time it can take to mitigate a CBRN incident, it is not feasible to use other fleet vehicles for a response. A CBRN Response Vehicle should be primarily dedicated to this role and back up a Hazardous Materials response.

Not to be overlooked are the very important additional uses for this vehicle, such as its provision of a secondary Hazardous Materials Team Response capability, including mobilizing decontamination equipment and crews, and also an ability to provide assistance to the Regional Police and the RCMP in clandestine drug laboratory response operations (another specialized hazardous materials response).

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on an increase to the 2005/06 Capital Budget of \$65,000 for a new capital project to purchase a CBRN Emergency Response Vehicle, funding is available in the amount of \$65,000 from the Fire Vehicle Reserve Q206. 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 as well as Reserve withdrawals..

ALTERNATIVES

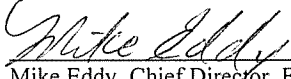
To continue to operate without a dedicated specialized CBRN Response Vehicle. A CBRN response would still occur, however it would be delayed pending finding a vehicle available, and able, to transport the CBRN responders, their personal protective, detection, and mitigation equipment, and the necessary chemical warfare agent antidote.

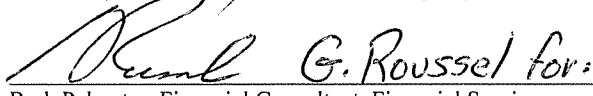
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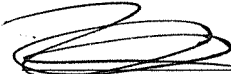
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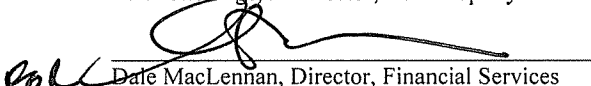
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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