



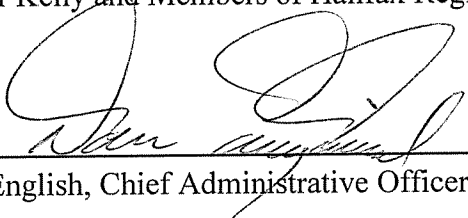
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11.1.5

Halifax Regional Council
March 20, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 14, 2007

SUBJECT: Fire - Purchase of Vehicles / Reserve Withdrawals

ORIGIN

Staff

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. Approve an increase to the 2006/07 Capital Budget, Capital Project CVJ00704 - Fire Fleet Utility Vehicle Replacement in the amount of \$157,500 which includes the un-refundable portion of the HST, for the purchase of: Two (2) 1/4 Ton Club Cab 4x4 Trucks - \$66,000; One (1) Cube Van - \$65,500; and One (1) Compact 4 Door, Hatchback, FWD - \$26,000 with funding in the amount of \$157,500 to be provided from Q206 - Fire Vehicle & Equipment Reserve.
2. Approve the withdrawal of \$157,500 from Q206 - Fire Vehicle & Equipment Reserve.

BACKGROUND

As a result of an operational change to increase efficiencies in the Operations Division of Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency, two (2) per shift on-duty District Captains have been assigned and will be responsible for 24 hour, 7 days a week operational safety on emergency scenes, accident investigation and on shift training. One (1) District Captain will be assigned to Eastern HRM (core/rural stations) and one (1) to the Western HRM (core/rural stations) per shift. These District Captains will require vehicles for emergency response for the coverage areas and to perform their on shift duties.

As a result of initiating in-house technical support for Rural and Core breathing apparatus there is a need for a designated mobile maintenance vehicle to carry equipment to do testing and maintenance of the breathing apparatus.

The utility vehicle 97-104U, a 1997 Ford Escort is due for replacement and is in generally poor condition. Maintenance costs per year are averaging \$2000. The vehicle's body is also in generally bad condition with rust damage.

DISCUSSION

The two (2) District Captains will be required to respond to most emergencies in their areas and in all weather. These individuals will be carrying safety equipment as well as personal protective equipment. As such they will require a 4 wheel drive vehicle outfitted with radios, lights and siren. All items are included in the cost of the vehicles.

Technical support for breathing apparatus has, in the past, been outsourced. An analysis of the costs has shown that there will be significant efficiencies by providing an in-house technician with a mobile maintenance facility. As well, Fire and Emergency will be able to fully comply with standards set by the Canadian Standards Association, the Department of Labour and the National Fire Protection Agency.

The technician will be required to transport a mobile maintenance vehicle to fire stations throughout HRM. The vehicle was specified by Emergency Fleet based on the equipment weights and requirements of a mobile maintenance facility.

The 4 door hatchback will replace a current fleet utility that is due for replacement after 10 years in our fleet. The existing unit (97-104U) will be going to HRM Surplus for disposal.

The vehicles and related costs have been provided and confirmed by Emergency Fleet.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Based on an increase to the 2006/07 Capital Budget of \$157,500, including the un-refundable portion of the HST, for four (4) new vehicles as follows:

Two (2) 1/4 Ton Club Cab Truck 4x4	\$66,000 (vehicle, freight, tax, emergency lights, radio decals)
One (1) Compact 4 Dr. Hatchback	\$26,000 (vehicle, freight, tax, radio, decals)
One Cube Van	<u>\$65,500</u> (vehicle, freight, tax, radio, decals)
Total Cost	\$157,500

Funding is available from the Fire Vehicle & Equipment Reserve Q206 in the amount of \$157,500. This has been confirmed by Financial Services. This report, if approved, will increase the reserve withdrawals but there will be no net impact to the 2006/07 capital budget.

If approved, the Procurement policy for tendering will be followed.

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 2006/07 gross capital budget and withdrawals from Reserves.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternatives for three (3) of these vehicles. The 1/4 ton trucks will be used as emergency response vehicles, requiring lights and siren. The cube van is to used as a mobile maintenance vehicle and will be required on scene during major emergencies.

Two (2) alternatives exists for the compact 4 door hatchback:

- 1) The existing vehicle can have the rust repaired and repainted at a cost of approximately \$1769. Maintenance costs of \$2000 plus per year will continue and is likely to increase as the vehicle ages.
- 2) As this is a utility vehicle replacement, we can explore changing our practices and start paying mileage. Additionally, Fire Service will be reviewing our current usage of utility vehicles to ensure that we are providing the most cost effective practice for the municipality.

ATTACHMENTS - None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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