

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: November 4, 2024
Department: Finance-Treasury
Report No.: FIN-2024-30
Submitted by: William (Bill) Dakin- Director of IT/Finance-Treasurer
Brent Smith – Director of Fire Services/Fire Chief
Approved by: Trisha McKibbin – Chief Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Bush Truck Lease to Replace FPO 1 Vehicle

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: Council receive report FIN-2024-30 “Bush Truck Lease to Replace FPO 1 Vehicle” for information, and further;

THAT: Council approve the lease of a Bush Truck and the internal transfer of the vehicles with the station to accommodate the replacement of the FPO 1 vehicle.

BACKGROUND:

The 2024 Capital budget includes the provision of \$75,000 to replace the FPO 1 vehicle in the current year.

COMMENTS:

Strathroy-Caradoc Fire Department has had a significant increase in the amount of brush, field and machinery fires over the last 3 years: 19 incidents in 2022, 12 incidents in 2023, and 9 up to October 1, 2024. When attending these events with our current apparatus, entry onto soft fields with a fully loaded truck is difficult at best and impossible at other times due to soft land, access, and terrain. Currently trucks are staged at the roadway and hose is advanced to the needed location by the 4x4 service trucks or, in some cases, by the use of privately owned 4x4 trucks. This is time consuming and very labour intensive. The dragging of hose to the needed locations across rugged terrain has also taken a toll on our hose inventory, costing thousands of dollars to replace damaged hose and further creating a significant increase in tear down, cleaning, and reloading of apparatus.

Discussion with all members, officers, and firefighters has come up with the need for a truck with a portable pump with a quick deploy high-pressure hose reel and an on board water supply of approximately 300 gallons; a 4x4 for access to hard to reach areas with the ability to carry firefighters with equipment, additional hose, and foam; and also a winch for the bush truck to self-extricate if it is caught up during these events.

Many options were explored from used to new and the best price with all the needed capacities to carry water, equipment, and transport firefighters, was determined.

In recent discussions with the Municipality's partners at Enterprise Fleet Management, they along with the Fire Chief were able secure the ability to lease an up-fitted Dodge Ram 3500 4x4 crew cab with an 8 foot box equipped with a fitted CET Pump, 20 HP Honda with 300 gallons of on board water, and electric speed reel with additional fittings. This truck is also fitted with all necessary emergency equipment and stowage to be dual purposed to carry all the existing equipment on Service 25. This new bush unit would be located at Mt. Brydges Station for a central location within the Municipality for response. Service 25, which is a 2020 Ford F250 4x4 crew cab short box, would be relocated to Strathroy station to become the FPO 1 vehicle, which can easily accommodate current gear with the added ability to tow the rehab/tech rescue trailer that is located in Strathroy that needs a 250 series truck to tow.

CONSULTATION:

Director of IT/Finance-Treasurer

Director of Fire Services/Fire Chief

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$75,000 that was allocated to replace FPO 1 and the value of the surplus 2010 Chevrolet of \$12-15,000 be transferred to the Fire Fleet Reserve. In keeping with the current policy within the municipality of leasing vehicles under the 5500 series of trucks, staff propose leasing this truck from Enterprise for \$2,338.73/mth. and it be included in the Fire Service 2025 operating budget. The emergency equipment and pump is not included for return and could therefore be transferred to a different unit at lease end.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

Local Infrastructure and Capital Investment: Households and businesses in Strathroy-Caradoc will be supported by reliable, financially responsible, and well-maintained infrastructure networks.

Managing the Challenges of Growth for the Municipal Organization: Strathroy-Caradoc will be an inclusive community where growth is managed to accommodate a range of needs and optimize municipal resources. We are committed to maintaining operational efficiency and economies of scale through these times of change.

ATTACHMENTS:

Dodge Truck Listing