

COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: April 22, 2025
Department: Engineering and Public Works
Report No.: EPW-2025-22
Submitted by: Mark Ortiz, Director of Engineering and Public Works
Approved by: Rob Browning, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: **Replacement Grader and Plow Equipment Award**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT: Council receive report EPW-2025-22 titled “Replacement Grader and Plow Equipment Award” for information, and further;

THAT: Council approves the purchase of a 2025 CAT Grader for \$673,870.00 plus HST from Toromont.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works department maintains a fleet of equipment used to deliver the services of the department. The fleet currently includes 2 graders with various attachments to complete tasks throughout the Municipality. The graders are currently used for:

- Grading gravel roads
- Grading parking lots
- Ice blading gravel roads
- Snow plowing
- Gravel preparation prior to tar and chip application

The new grader will be replacing the existing 2002 Volvo grader currently in operation with Public Works.

COMMENTS:

The 2025 150AWD CAT Grader that Public Works is proposing, includes the following attachments:

- Rear Mount Roller to assist with compaction when grading gravel roads
- Snow Leveling Wing for winter maintenance

- One-way Snowplow for winter maintenance
- Universal Front Group which allows for easy installation of various attachments

Public Works staff visited other Municipalities in Middlesex County to observe and get a hands on review of what grader other municipalities were operating. Following a visit to the Municipality of Thames Centre, Strathroy-Caradoc Public Works operators recommend proceeding with the CAT grader for the following:

- Enhanced visibility - Angled windows and rear-and-side-view mirrors, allows operators to see the jobsite all around.
- Joystick controls - Reduces effort and strain on operator's body.
- Cab comfort - Ample storage, multiple ergonomic adjustments, HVAC system dehumidifies and pressurizes the cab, circulating fresh air, seals out dust and keeps windows clear

Other benefits of the CAT grader include:

- All-wheel drive (AWD) option assists with traction and maneuvering the machine, so operators can work in any environment. This will be very helpful in winter
- Lower maintenance costs
 - Longer Service Intervals - Instead of changing filters every 500 hours, the CAT unit filters are changed at 1,000 hours
 - Grouped Filters – Filters reduce costs and are grouped together for easy access and preventative maintenance
 - Ground-level Fluid Fill – Reduces the need to climb onto the unit as well as large fuel capacity allowing operators to work longer without the need to refuel as often

Made-In-Canada

Toromont is a 100% Canadian-owned company employing over 7,000 employees from Manitoba to Newfoundland with its head office in Ontario.

The attachments are to be manufactured by Craig, Viking Cives and Raglan which are all Canadian companies with manufacturing facilities in Canada.

Co-operative Purchasing

Section 16 of the Purchasing Policy states the following:

1. The Municipality may participate with other government agencies or public authorities in co-operative purchasing when it is in the best interest of the Municipality.
2. The decision to participate in co-operative purchasing will be made by the Director in concurrence with the Treasurer.

3. The policies of the government agency or public authority calling the cooperative bid are to be the accepted policies for the bid. The Municipality will not be held responsible for any policies regarding cooperative purchasing unless the policies used are its own.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Municipality's Purchasing Policy, Staff obtained a quotation through Canoe Pricing from Toromont for a 2025 Grader that includes all the required features for the Public Works department.

Canoe Pricing, is a co-operative purchasing program that manages solicitation of bidders for government agencies. This purchasing program has special negotiated rates that municipalities can use for the purchase of equipment from specific suppliers.

Co-operative purchasing is procurement conducted by, or on behalf of, one or more Public Procurement Units. Canoe's analysts streamline the procurement process by developing RFPs and IFBs for national, competitive solicitations that meet or exceed local requirements. The rigorous process is continually refined to best meet the needs of participating agencies and allows municipalities to offer exceptional products from nationally acclaimed suppliers.

Canoe pricing allows Staff to save time and money by purchasing from the ready-to-use, competitively solicited contracts. Canoe pricing is a common purchasing process now used by other municipalities.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager of Public Works
- Public Works Operators

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2025 150AWD CAT Grader price is \$700,870.00 plus HST. As part of the quote from Toromont they've offered a trade-in value of \$27,000 for the existing 2002 Volvo Grader.

The final cost after trade-in is \$673,870.00 plus HST.

The replacement grader and plow equipment was budgeted for in the 2025 fleet capital budget for \$750,000. The remaining funds will be allocated to the Fleet Reserve.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO THE RECOMMENDATION:

1. Council to provide alternate direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This matter is in accord with the following strategic priorities:

- **Customer Service:** The municipality offers seamless, responsive service and an exceptional experience for every customer.

- **Growth Management:** Strathroy-Caradoc will be an inclusive community where growth is managed to accommodate a range of needs and optimize municipal resources.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.