

Subject: Reassignment of Fleet Unit 222 Rescue 1 From Fire Services to Public Works

Recommendation:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive Report #2024-0101 Reassignment of Fleet Unit 222 Rescue 1 From Fire Services to Public Works, for information;

AND THAT Council approve the installation of a dump body on Unit 222 by transferring the funds from the 1-ton Truck project VEH-07-21 (cost centre 300989) in the amount of \$90,000; and any unspent funds will be transferred back to the Fleet Reserve.

Background:

As previously reported to Council through Public Works Report #2021-0045, Operational Challenges Resulting from Critical Fleet Breakdown, unit 324, being a 2003 Ford F-350 experienced a catastrophic transmission failure which has resulted in its removal from service. The 2021 Fleet Capital project VEH-07-21 was approved to replace unit 324.

Town Staff has attempted several times to replace the vehicle through the Town's procurement process as well as joint tendering with the Town of Lincoln, and most recently in collaboration with the Niagara Region's Fleet Services division. The manufacturing and supply of heavy-duty vehicles was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and there continues to be a shortage of available chassis in this segment. To date, all attempts to procure a replacement have failed to produce results.

Unit 222 (Rescue 1) is a 2005 Ford F-550 with less than 30,000km. Due to its age, and fleet optimization within Fire Services, Rescue 1 will be removed from service and scheduled for disposal upon delivery of the new Squad 1 (Project FD-02-24). While unit 222 is no longer acceptable as a first response/emergency vehicle, it can continue to be utilized by Public Works.

Fleet assets are routinely transferred between departments based on need and seasonal utilization. This report seeks Council's approval to fund the installation of a dump body on the surplus unit 222 utilizing the funds carried over from the 2021 Fleet Capital Project VEH-07-21 for use in the Public Works Department.

Analysis:

Unit 324 was taken out of service at the beginning of 2021. It was primarily used in the Public Works Department to carry out routine road maintenance and was heavily relied upon to remain in compliance with O.Reg 239/02 Minimum Maintenance Standards under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, which sets time limits to complete road repairs and patch potholes. To support the needs of the department a 1-ton truck with a dump body has been rented at \$985 per month or \$35,460 to date. The costs of the rental are covered through the Fleet Operating Budget for equipment rental.

Town staff have received quotes from several vehicle upfitters for the removal of the existing fire equipment service box and the installation of a dump body on unit 222. Costs range between \$18,000 to \$28,000 depending on the material. Once removed the service box would still hold value and be disposed of under Town of Pelham Policy No. S400-10.

The approved budget for the 2021 Fleet Capital project VEH-07-21 is \$90,000. Although there is some uncertainty as to the value of a new 1-ton chassis and dump body in 2024, it is believed that the budget for VEH-07-21 would not be sufficient. As the supply chains continue to improve and chassis become available, additional funding from the fleet reserve would be required.

Unit 222 is well maintained, has been stored inside, and has low mileage in comparison to its age. While declared surplus by Fire Services, it has the potential to serve the Public Works Department for many more years and reduce the impact on the Fleet Operation Budget by eliminating the costs of renting a vehicle.

Financial Considerations:

Should Council approve the installation of a dump body on Unit 222 by transferring the funds from the 1-ton Truck project VEH-07-21 (cost centre 300989) in the amount of \$90,000; any unspent funds will be transferred back to the Fleet Reserve.

Alternatives Reviewed:

Alternatively, unit 222 may be disposed of under Town of Pelham Policy No. S400-10 and Public Works would continue to rent a vehicle for \$985 per month until a replacement for unit 324 can be procured.

Strategic Plan Relationship: Infrastructure Investment and Renewal

Extending the life of unit 222 to provide fleet support in Public Works will result in savings in both capital and operating fleet budgets.

Consultation:

The Fleet Technician, Fire Chief, and Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer were consulted in the authoring of this report.

Other Pertinent Reports/Attachments:

Public Works Report #2021-0045, Operational Challenges Resulting from Critical Fleet Breakdown

Town of Pelham Policy S400-10

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