

DATE: July 17, 2023

REPORT NO: WLFD-11-2023

SUBJECT: **Squad 2 Replacement Recommendation**

CONTACT: Tim Hofsink, Acting Fire Chief

OVERVIEW:

- Squad 2, a truck at Station 2, has had an engine failure and as a result is currently out of service.
- Staff are recommending that Squad 2 be replaced with a smaller pick-up truck a year ahead of the capital budget timeline in order for Station 2 to operate at full capacity.
- Staff request Council's approval of a Budget Amendment (BA2023-08) in the amount of \$97,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That, Recommendation Report WLFD-11-2023 regarding "Squad 2 Replacement Recommendation" dated July 17th, 2023 be received; and,
2. That, the replacement of the Squad 2 (smaller rescue vehicle) at Station 2 in Caistor Centre be advanced from the 2024 Capital Budget to the 2023 Fiscal year with a budget amendment; and,
3. That, Council approve a \$97,000 Budget Amendment BA2023-08 financed through a transfer from the Fire Reserve.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Strategic Priority #1 & #4

- **Build** – a safe, connected, caring and active community
- **Advance** – organizational capacity and effectiveness

BACKGROUND:

The current Squad 2 truck at Station 2 is a 2006 Ford F550 with a diesel engine and was budgeted to be replaced in 2024.

The Ten Year Capital Plan includes project 851 in 2024, which recommends the acquisition of a half-ton sized pick-up style truck to replace the 2006 Ford F550 Squad truck at Station 2 with a budget of \$68,000. A Squad truck is a smaller response unit used for the transportation of personnel and equipment to and from emergency scenes.

It is also used for emergency responses that require smaller apparatus, and where a heavy rescue/pumper is not required or suitable, such as medical calls and carbon monoxide investigations.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Following a Fire Service call, the 2006 Ford F550 Squad truck returned smoking severely from the exhaust, leaking coolant from engine bay and tailpipe. The truck was assessed by mechanics and it was determined that the engine had developed an internal leak, possibly from the cylinder head or gasket or from the EGR cooler. Coolant had entered the oil reservoir, contaminating the oil and likely damaging vital engine components.

The job to fix this is a very large one, including the removal of the cab and replacement of the engine, switching useable components from the old engine to the new.

The truck is currently approximately 18 years old, has had some fairly significant repairs to date and is scheduled for replacement in 2024, according to the Fire 10-year Capital budget plan. The intention was to replace the truck in 2024 with a smaller pick-up style vehicle as is currently being used at Station 1 for calls of the types this vehicle is designated to run.

The current vehicle is out of service and the full-size heavy rescue is running in its place. This situation means that fewer spaces are available for firefighters on apparatus during calls. Certain equipment is carried on the Squad, for which there is not sufficient space on the heavy rescue.

OPTIONS

Options include:

1. Replacing the vehicle in the current year and with a smaller pick-up style vehicle, one year ahead of the capital budget timeframe (**recommended option**)
2. Repairing vehicle in the current year, then replacing it the following year with the originally scheduled replacement (**not recommended** due to low resale value of the repaired vehicle, poor return on investment)
3. Taking no action (**not recommended** as too few seats on apparatus already an issue with some calls, some equipment is not currently available immediately on calls due to space constraints)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Estimates have been provided to address Option 2 with a replacement engine costing from \$21,000-\$37000.

To proceed with the recommended Option 1, and replace the vehicle with a smaller pick-up truck a year ahead of the capital budget timeline and including the associated costs of preparing a new vehicle for emergency vehicle use e.g., installing a warning light system, sirens, a truck box cap, decals and labeling, and other assorted equipment, the cost is estimated to be approximately \$95,000 plus hst.

However, it is important to note that this a rough estimate as supply shortages have made estimating costs difficult to predict.

Council is being asked to approve Budget Amendment BA2023-08 to accelerate the replacement of the 2006 Ford F550 from 2024 to 2023 (Project 851). The budget amendment approves a budget of \$97,000, financed through a transfer from the Fire Reserve.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMENTS:

The CAO and the Director of Finance have reviewed the contents of this report.

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended that Council approve Option 1 as the recommended option and Council is being asked to approve Budget Amendment BA2023-08 to accelerate the replacement of the 2006 Ford F550 from 2024 to 2023 (Project 851).

Prepared & Submitted by:



Tim Hofsink
Acting Fire Chief

Approved by:



Bev Hendry
CAO