



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: _____
Karrie Ritchie, Public Works Administrative Assistant

Date: November 12, 2024

Subject: Hantsport Fire Department (HFD) – Wildland Fire Truck Recommendation Report

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Municipal Government Act, R.S.N.S. 1998, c. 18 - Section 65(a) – Authorized Municipal Expenditures

Fire and Emergency Services Policy (WHRM), Sections 8 & 9 – Financial Matters and Procurement Practices

RECOMMENDATION

... that Committee of the Whole recommends that Council approve the purchase of Hantsport Fire Department's Wildland Fire Truck, to the successful bidder, Rocky Mountain Pheonix at a value of \$385,963.00 plus five percent contingency and applicable taxes.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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At the May 29th Special (Capital Budget) Council Meeting Council approved the replacement of HFD's 2008 Dodge Ram 3500 with a more versatile Wildland Truck Mid-size rescue with pump at a cost of \$450,000.00.

DISCUSSION

A Wildland Urban Interface Vehicle or Brush Truck is a more versatile truck which would offer residents additional protection during various wildland-interface fires while still meeting the

needs that the traditional utility- pickup offered carrying medical supplies, traffic control, additional crews to the scene.

Wildland Urban Interface Vehicle vehicles are built to respond to these types of events and in many cases can access areas where traditional large fire apparatus have difficulties accessing.

Wildland Urban Interface Vehicle units can also respond to smaller incidents, motor vehicle collisions, medical assists etc., with limited crew. A small fire or incident may only require the services of two people and minimal equipment. The primary role of this unit would be for rapid and effective control of small brush or grass fires before they spread and become much larger threats.

One of the key features that makes this apparatus ideal for vegetation fires is their ability to pump water while driving, whereas most, but not all traditional engines must be put into park and remain stationary to flow water. This pump-and-roll feature allows the apparatus to make "running attacks" on vegetation fires, a tactic that is used to help minimize the rate of spread by having a firefighter walk the edge of a fire with a hose line and the engine trailing close behind.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) vehicles are becoming the standard for enhanced wildland firefighting operations. The proposed apparatus has several key features:

- Compact overall length and wheelbase - this apparatus is intended for wildland fire applications therefore it is designed with a compact, short wheelbase for enhanced maneuverability. This also provides operational capability in winter conditions.
- High ground clearance - unlike their municipal counterparts, WUI Engines are built with higher ground clearance to ensure they can safely traverse off-road environments. Increased ground clearance also improves approach and departure angles.
- Full pumping capabilities – The proposed apparatus has a pump with a tank size of 300 gallons. It can also access remote water supplies and draft water from these areas.
- Foam systems - This apparatus is outfitted with foam systems to help manage wildland and combustible material fires.
- Optimized storage capabilities - Wildland fire engines can encounter many hazards on the job and are outfitted accordingly. This unit has strategic compartmentation and optimized storage. The apparatus will hold a full complement of loose equipment and additional tools based on the specific areas of service (traffic, wildland fire, medical, structural fire etc.)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Tendering Timeline:

Posted to Procurement	September 18, 2024
Closing Date	October 3, 2024
Price Expiry Date	December 2, 2024
Days Remaining	21 Days

The procurement process included posting the tender on the Nova Scotia Procurement site. A single quote was received from Rocky Mountain Phoenix as noted in the report.

2024-25 Capital Budget – HFD Light Rescue 51

Quote Pricing	\$385,963.00
Contingency (5%)	\$19,298.15
Non-Recoverable Tax (4.29%)	<u>\$17,385.70</u>
Total 2024-25 Expected Cost	\$422,646.85
2024-25 Total Budget Value	\$450,000.00
Variance	\$27,353.15

In the 2024-25 Capital Budget, the HFD Replacement Truck is scheduled to be funded through long-term debt. The debt servicing for this truck is scheduled to start in the 2025-26 operating budget. The annual debt servicing is estimated to be \$36,047 and will be cost shared with the Municipality of Kings County based on the annual allocation percentage.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will proceed with Council's direction.

ALTERNATIVES

Council can choose to not support the recommendation and provide alternate direction, although this is not the recommendation from staff.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support the recommendation. It is within the allocation approved by Council in the 2024/25 Capital Budget.

Report Prepared by: _____
Karrie Ritchie, Public Works, Administrative Assistant

Report Reviewed by: _____
Diana Gibson, Manager, Accounting & Financial Reporting

Report Reviewed by: _____

Carlee Rochon, Director, Financial Services

Report Approved by:



Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer