



Governance and Priorities Committee Report

For the Meeting of November 5, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** October 19, 2015
From: Paul Bruce, Fire Chief
Subject: Aerial Apparatus Purchase

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report for information relating to the replacement of Victoria Fire Department Ladder 2, 1990 Emergency One 95' Aerial Platform.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Victoria Fire Department presently has two aerial ladder apparatus in its fleet. The primary or first line apparatus, Ladder 1, is a 2011 Rosenbauer "Raptor" Aerial apparatus, which was the first in Canada and is one of the most technologically advanced aerial devices in service within the fire industry. The second aerial apparatus, Ladder 2, is a 1990 E-One (Emergency One) 95' Aerial Platform which was placed into service with the department in 1992 and has most recently served as an option for use at fire scenes as a secondary "means of egress", water tower or for victim rescue and removal. It additionally serves as a "reserve" apparatus when servicing is required on Ladder 1.

In 2015, the replacement of Ladder 2 was included for consideration in budget discussions with funding phased through the Municipal Finance Authority over five years starting in the 2016 budget year. In September, a Request for Proposal was initiated and received for replacement for the aerial apparatus. This proposal indicated a replacement cost of \$1,280,162 USD net GST and PST, which resulted in a landed cost of approximately \$1,433,000 USD (\$1,770,000 CAD) with today's exchange rate. Upon receipt and review of the proposal, staff accepted that with the present exchange rate (\$1 USD = \$1.38 CAD), the price of the apparatus had increased significantly from initial forecasting for replacement of the apparatus. Staff investigated alternatives for replacement of the aerial apparatus with an objective of ensuring operational efficiency of the department, life cycle maintenance of the apparatus and response capacity, consideration and sustainability of the Corporate Fleet budget and, to confirm applicable "standards for service" were maintained.

Through this analysis, staff located a "pre-owned" aerial apparatus with Brookline Massachusetts Fire Department at a price of \$375,000 USD. Enquiry relating to the history, use and application of this apparatus suggested this may be an effective alternative in addressing the requirement for service within our department, compliance with NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) recommendations and the applicable standards to achieve apparatus credit under the Fire Underwriter's Laboratory survey. The ULC S515-13 standard states, "The responsibility for the

maintenance, inspection and testing of automobile firefighting apparatus ultimately lies with the fire department that owns the firefighting apparatus”.

With the increased need for elevated firefighting tactics, rescue and fire stream devices within the City of Victoria, the role of Ladder 2 in fire protection and rescue is cumulative in nature, ensuring that adequate operational considerations and resources are available and relative to effective resourcing. The NFPA recommends replacement of 1st line or primary apparatus at 10 years of service and full retirement at 15 years of service. Historically, the Victoria Fire Department's Fleet Maintenance Division has provided the expertise in preventive and required mechanical oversight, which has provided for our apparatus to exceed, in latter cases, a 20 to 25 year service life expectation. The Fire Underwriter's Survey recommends apparatus response as first line apparatus for a period of 15 years, with a 5 year “reserve” status with recommended retirement at 20 years of service. There is no “credit” provided towards the Public Fire Protection Classification of any community with apparatus in excess of 20 years' service life, whether designated primary or reserve status.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Through further investigation, the acquisition of the 2006 Emergency One, 100' Bronto Sky lift was achieved through a negotiated price of \$300,000 USD which would equate to \$414,000 CAD with today's exchange rate. Including the relocation of the apparatus, Canadian certifications testing, painting and minor fabrication upgrades; it is determined this apparatus will be placed in service with the Victoria Fire Department, at an estimated total investment of less than \$500,000 CAD. As a result of the lower cost of this apparatus and delay of the purchase of a few other vehicles, funding was available through the 2015 budget year. Additional efficiencies will be realized through stability of the Fleet Capital Planning with the acquisition of this apparatus.

The procurement of this apparatus for the City of Victoria Fire Department will provide for Fire Department aerial apparatus replacement to be reviewed again in 2026 where operational analysis will provide for increased strategic focus in regards to fleet maintenance and replacement.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan

Objective 1 – Innovate and Lead – This acquisition is clearly an alternative to funding a new apparatus and provides for an alternative manner in addressing issues relating to the efficiency of the organization.

Objective 4 – Build the Financial Capacity of the Organization

Objective 12 – Plan for Emergencies including Climate Change Short and Long Term – Assurance that specialty apparatus are available for emergency response for firefighting and rescue applications, meeting the expectations and compliance of industry.

Impacts to 2015 – 2018 Financial Plan

Net savings of approximately \$1.3-1.4 M

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Bruce
Fire Chief

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

October 30, 2015

Attachments: 4 Photos



Victoria Fire Department Ladder 1, purchased in 2011



Victoria Fire Department Ladder 2, 1990 E-One 95' Platform



Colwood Aerial Tower, delivered in 2015, \$1.6 million



Brookline E-One Bronto, 100' Articulating Platform