
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CMS-ES-04-2018 Caledonia Firefighters Association Donation of an Off-road Firefighting and Rescue Vehicle

For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 18, 2018



OBJECTIVE:

To receive Council approval to accept the donation of an off-road firefighting and rescue vehicle purchased by the Caledonia Firefighters Association.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CMS-ES-04-2018 Caledonia Firefighters Association Donation of an Off-road Firefighting and Rescue Vehicle be received;
2. AND THAT the donation of an off-road firefighting and rescue vehicle purchased by the Caledonia Firefighters Association be accepted;
3. AND THAT the revised budget as outlined in CMS-ES-04-2018 be approved.

Prepared by: Jason Gallagher, Manager, Emergency Services/Fire Chief

Respectfully submitted: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development

Approved: Donald G. Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purchase of a remote access vehicle, which is a modified ATV that has been outfitted with the ability to fight fires utilizing a mini pump, as well as the ability to provide rescues with the addition of a rescue basket and seating to transport patients and paramedics out of rigged terrain. Also, the purchase of a trailer is required to transport the unit to and from emergency scenes. This initiative has been requested by the Caledonia Firefighters Association to be donated to Haldimand County and is supported by the Fire Chief. A remote access vehicle is a worthy Association purchase that provides a much valued service, which has been proven by the Hagersville Firefighters Association purchase of a similar vehicle in 2016. A similar vehicle has also been approved for Cayuga subject to the Association raising the necessary funds. This additional vehicle will be utilized in all areas of the County to assist with providing emergency response. Staff recommends accepting this donation and assuming the associated operating costs.

BACKGROUND:

Haldimand County's volunteer firefighter associations often purchase equipment beneficial to firefighting operations with money raised through their own fundraising efforts. The requested purchases need to be approved by the Fire Chief before completed, and then once approved and acquired, the equipment is donated to Haldimand County.

A request of this type, in accordance with report CMS-ES-06-2015, requires Council approval based on the below principle:

Where the purchase involves firefighting related equipment that exceeds \$75,000, or in the opinion of the Fire Chief and/or General Manager of Community Services changes the level of service, Council approval is required.

The purpose of this report is to bring forward a request by the Caledonia Firefighters Association who are seeking approval to purchase a remote access vehicle.

The proposed purchase represents a change in the level of service, as it exceeds the type of standard equipment currently deployed at Haldimand County's fire stations.

Once the equipment is purchased, it becomes the property of Haldimand County who assumes responsibility for insuring, maintaining and repairing the equipment. These association purchases are done several times each year, typically for small equipment.

The Caledonia Firefighters Association has requested approval to purchase an off-road firefighting and rescue vehicle and trailer. This vehicle is manufactured by a company called RKO Enterprises and the vehicle and trailer are valued at approximately \$35,000. The unit will be put on a 10 year lifecycle. At that time, Fleet will determine if it is at the end of its lifespan. If it is determined that the vehicle is no longer in service it will be returned to the Association for disposal.

ANALYSIS:

The Caledonia Firefighters Association has requested approval to purchase an off-road firefighting and rescue vehicle and trailer. This vehicle is manufactured by a company called RKO Enterprises and the vehicle and trailer are valued at approximately \$35,000. The unit will be put on a 10 year lifecycle. At that time, Fleet will determine if it is at the end of its lifespan. If it is determined that the vehicle is no longer in service it will be returned to the Association for disposal. At the end of the lifespan any replacement vehicle would be funded by the Association. In support of this purchase request, a Business Case has been included as Attachment 1.

The vehicle that the Caledonia Firefighters Association is proposing is similar to one purchased in Hagersville by the Hagersville Firefighters Association (see Attachments 2 through 5).

The vehicle includes the following:

- It would safely and securely hold a stretcher/basket to be able to transport an injured person from an inaccessible area.
- It would have an area to transport medical equipment and a paramedic to enable quick patient contact and care in difficult to access areas.
- It would be outfitted with a 10 HP portable pump and carry 120 gallons of water to enable firefighting in difficult to access areas.
- Storage areas for firefighting and rescue equipment for transport to difficult to access areas.
- A trailer is also to be purchased to tow the unit which is part of the proposal.

This vehicle assists in response times in remote locations where firefighters would otherwise have to walk into the location carrying emergency equipment. The vehicle would be housed at the 'new' Caledonia Fire Station but could be utilized wherever it is required in the County.

Hagersville Fire Department currently has a similar off-road vehicle in service purchased in 2015, which has been utilized many times for:

- Brush Fires. *Note - having the off-road unit in service during the large field fire off of 3rd line near Hagersville in 2016, assisted in saving over 25 million dollars of agricultural facilities.*

- Accessing injured people on trails or other off-road areas not regularly accessible by vehicles. Haldimand County has 10 kilometers of built trails in the Caledonia area and is currently implementing a further 9 kilometers of trail systems within the next two years in the Caledonia area. In addition, the County has numerous unopened road allowances used by the public for informal recreation. An off-road vehicle like this would be a great asset to further compliment the unit out of Hagersville and provide additional coverage for occasions where firefighters are dispatched to an emergency in a remote location.
- Accessing injured people in deep brush or hunting areas that are not accessible by vehicles.
- Special events where vehicle access is limited.

Cayuga Firefighters Association was also approved to purchase a similar remote access vehicle, however, at this time the vehicle has not been purchased as fund raising efforts have stalled. The Cayuga Firefighters Association are still very interested in moving forward with the purchase, however it has been put on hold until a proper committee can be formed to ensure fund raising efforts are completed.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of the Caledonia Firefighters Association purchase is approximately \$35,000. The Association is not requesting any funds from Haldimand County for this purchase.

Although there are no direct financial costs associated with the purchase of this equipment, under the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) reporting standards, the County will be required to record the value as a contributed asset. This contribution will be amortized over the estimated life of the equipment for accounting purposes.

The annual operating costs for the remote access vehicle is approximately \$1,631.00 and annual operating costs for the trailer are approximately \$835.00. These on-going additional operating costs of approximately \$2,500.00 related to the off-road firefighting and rescue vehicle and trailer will require a tax levy increase in the 2019 Tax Supported Operating Budget as an on-going Council approved initiative.

As this is an Association purchase, the County is not responsible for the future replacement of the equipment and, as such, only operating expenses are budgeted. Similar to other projects, the ATV will not be ordered until such time as the Caledonia Firefighters Association has the full cost of funding for the ATV "in hand".

The 2018 Tax Supported Budget and Forecast did not include an estimate related to this equipment purchase. As a result, an amended budget is required as follows:

	Current Approved Budget	Proposed Revised Budget
Expenditures		
Equipment - New	\$0	\$35,000
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$35,000
Financing		
Donations	\$0	\$35,000
Total Financing	\$0	\$0

It should be noted that the County's deductible for property insurance is \$50,000. Should loss or damage occur regarding an item below \$50,000, it would be an internal insurance claim and funded through the County's Insurance Reserve. As well, this addition to our inventory may require additional costs to be incurred if an insurance claim were to exist, possibly requiring additional contributions to the Insurance Reserve.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

The Fleet and Equipment Operations, Finance and Support Services Divisions have reviewed this report and their comments have been included.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Business Case, Remote Access Vehicle Proposal.
2. Front view photo of the Hagersville Firefighters Association's ATV vehicle similar to the vehicle being requested.
3. Left side view photo of the Hagersville Firefighters Association's ATV vehicle similar to the vehicle being requested.
4. Right side view photo of the Hagersville Firefighters Association's ATV vehicle similar to the vehicle being requested.
5. Back view photo of the Hagersville Firefighters Association's ATV vehicle similar to the vehicle being requested.