
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report EMS-06-2021 Early Purchase of Aerial Fire Apparatus For Consideration by Council in Committee on December 7, 2021



OBJECTIVE:

To obtain approval for the purchase of a Aerial Fire Apparatus for Station 1 Caledonia prior to Council approval of the 2022 Capital budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report EMS-06-2021 Early Purchase of Aerial Fire Apparatus be received;
2. AND THAT the accelerated purchase of a Aerial Fire Apparatus through the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada, as outlined in Report EMS-06-2021, be approved;
3. AND THAT the Revised Budget outlined in Report EMS-06-2021 be approved.

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

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Staff are seeking approval to accelerate the purchase of a Class 98c Aerial Fire Apparatus scheduled for purchase in 2022 for Station 1 Caledonia. Due to COVID related supply chain/labour issues and unprecedented increases in costs, the early purchase of this aerial is recommended to avoid significant cost increases that come into affect January 1, 2022 and to avoid significant delays in delivery time.

BACKGROUND:

Project #316029 in the amount of \$1.4 million was approved in the 2019 Capital budget. Forecast for 2022 for the purposes of acquiring a new Aerial Fire Apparatus to coincide with the construction of a new fire hall in Caledonia in 2022. This purchase was added to address the current growth in the County where the greatest pressures are occurring and such that, a triangle of aerals is established (i.e. Jarvis, Dunnville and Caledonia). With new building construction and the proximity of homes to one another in the Empire, Avalon, subdivisions off of McClung, proposed developments throughout the west end of the County, including the current Empire developments in Hagersville, as well as the 5 storey structure being built on Main St. N. in Hagersville - an aerial truck is required to provide proper response and fire suppression. Newer building construction increases the fuel load of structures, and therefore, decreases the amount of time firefighters have to extinguish buildings and provide life saving tactics. Structure fires also burn at a temperature far higher then previously experienced in the past and due to the proximity of neighbouring structures in new developments, and the radiant heat and flame impingement to these structures, there is a substantial increase in the chance of fire spreading to multiple homes. The aerial truck would be able to provide higher flow rates of water, as well as achieve

a height necessary to get above these structures to properly protect exposures from fire spread. Also, Caledonia has multiple buildings that are above 2 storeys.

This type of apparatus allows firefighters to properly extinguish fire and rescue from elevated heights. The truck would also be able to compliment the rest of the County if required due to major fires, i.e. Rosa Flora, warehouse fires, barn fires, etc.

This purchase is Funded 100% from Development Charges.

Through the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada, the quote received from the local Pierce dealer (Commercial Emergency Equipment of Woodstock Ontario), for a 2021 purchase is for \$1,392,349.52 which includes the payable tax of 1.76%. The vendor is expecting a 7.2% to 13% increase as of January 1, 2022. The delay of this purchase until Council budget approval on March 7, 2022, will increase the costs from approximately \$99,000 to \$178,000 and delay delivery until 2nd quarter 2023.

To further reduce costs, the unit recommended for purchase in this report is a 'stock unit', currently in the engineering phase of the build. Stock units are built to provide future inventory and demonstrator units and are more cost effective than custom made units. This unit will meet the needs of the Haldimand County Fire Department as many of the options that were desired are part of the stock unit, and meets all of the requirements of The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The anticipated delivery is 2nd quarter 2022.

ANALYSIS:

The Fire Division in consultation with Fleet staff, investigated the type of aerial apparatus that would perform the most efficiently in Caledonia and other areas within the County. Due to it's close turning radius, a single axle apparatus with a 107 ft. ladder (no platform, which is a bucket style currently stationed in Jarvis and Dunnville), was determined to be the most conducive to perform the work required. This type of aerial device allows the tip of the ladder to be used to get closer to openings caused by natural ventilation (broken windows, caused by fire conditions) to provide an initial fire attack, on the outside of the building prior to risking firefighters entering the interior for offensive attacks.

Stationing this truck in Caledonia is a benefit, as it will create a triangle affect of Aerial Apparatus' in the County. With the other two current aerial devices in service (i.e. Jarvis and Dunnville), increases the ability to fight large fires and have a response time to these structures within NFPA Standards for Aerial Response, which is around 10 mins. Compliance with NFPA Standards is also a positive step in risk mitigation of insurance and legal challenges.

County staff are recommending to purchase through the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada (Canoe) which is a cooperative purchasing effort under Local Authority Services (LAS) utilized by the broader public sector, including municipalities. Through LAS, the County is provided access to preferential pricing on trade-compliant purchasing programs that leverage the collective buying power of all involved.

There are several benefits to using the program for this acquisition including:

- A fair, open and transparent procurement process was followed in accordance with trade treaty obligations, therefore, no additional tendering or RFP process is required. For our part, in order to comply, a Notice of Participation in Cooperative Buying Groups must be posted to the County website and list LAS – this is completed annually by purchasing staff.
- The County is able to secure equipment that meets current industry standards in a more cost and time efficient manner.
- Ability to review the bid solicitation and vendor selection to ensure specification and service/reliability meets the needs of the County.

County staff have made purchases through the LAS cooperative purchasing program and have been satisfied with the results.

As noted above, the new aerial truck would be housed in Caledonia. The permanent housing will be the new Caledonia fire station upon completion of that build. Given the apparatus would arrive prior to the station construction being completed, a temporary home on the south side of Caledonia at the EMS station will be required.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The 2021, Council Approved, Tax Supported Capital Budget and Forecast included the purchase of a class 98c Aerial Fire Apparatus in 2022 with a budget of \$1.4 million. In order to accelerate this purchase and avoid the increased costs as noted above, the following budget revision is required:

	<u>Current Approved Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Revised Budget</u>
Expenditures		
Class 98c Fire Apparatus Aerial	\$0	\$1,400,000
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,400,000</u>
Funding		
DCRF – Fire	\$0	\$1,400,000
<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,400,000</u>

Given the estimated balance of the Development Charges Reserve Fund – Fire, moving up this project will not impact the planned financing of this purchase.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

Not applicable.