

COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 18, 2014

VAUGHAN FIRE AND RESCUE ASSISTANCE TO EAST GWILLIMBURY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Recommendation

The Fire Chief in consultation with the Interim City Manager and the City Clerk, recommends:

1. That the two-year lease of one non-operational pumper truck at a nominal rate to the Town of East Gwillimbury for use by East Gwillimbury Emergency Services, be ratified.

Contribution to Sustainability

The lease of the fire vehicle at a nominal rate is effectively a donation and was made pursuant to Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service's obligations under the mutual aid arrangement with other fire services in York Region. The mutual aid arrangement supports the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service's ability to sustain its own operations in similar circumstances.

Economic Impact

There is no economic impact to the City of Vaughan. The Town of East Gwillimbury is responsible for all operating costs and has undertaken all risks associated with the lease.

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department will issue a media release.

Purpose

With the support of the Interim City Manager, Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service has facilitated the lease of a 1998 pumper Freightliner to the East Gwillimbury Fire Emergency Service Department in order to assist with emergency service in the town of East Gwillimbury. This report seeks Council's ratification of the actions taken by staff to enter into the necessary documentation.

Background - Analysis and Options

On February 2, 2014, East Gwillimbury Fire Station 2-6 was involved in a major structure fire with the result that six emergency vehicles were destroyed. The East Gwillimbury Fire Chief requested the assistance of the York Regional fire departments through the York Regional Mutual Aid Plan for the loan of the necessary equipment to operate a fire station i.e. vehicles, equipment, radios, bunker gear etc.

Collectively, the York Regional Fire Chief's Association mobilized to assist the fire service with all the necessary equipment to operate an emergency service.

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services took inventory of its fleet and identified a non-operational pumper which was being used in the Training Division for recruit training purposes only. The vehicle was slotted for replacement in the 2013 Capital Budget plan. After consulting with staff it was determined that a vehicle lease of two years duration, coupled with insurance coverage (ten million dollar limit) and an indemnity provided by the Town of East Gwillimbury, best protected the interests of the City. Because the vehicle was urgently needed the documentation has already been executed by both parties. It is respectfully requested that Council ratify the actions taken by staff in these urgent circumstances.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and ties into the following Vaughan Vision 20/20 Goals and Objectives:

- Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery
- Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness

Regional Implications

The fire vehicle is being donated pursuant to the Region's Mutual Aid Plan.

Conclusion

Staff's actions in providing the vehicle to East Gwillimbury in these circumstances represents an appropriate yet prudent response to a neighbouring fire service in need. It is the goal of the East Gwillimbury Fire Service to replenish its fleet as soon as practicable and so it is likely the case that the lease will be terminated by mutual consent prior to the expiry of its two year term.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

Fire Chief Larry Bentley

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Bentley
Fire Chief