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**TO:** GENERAL COMMITTEE


**SUBJECT:** EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTRE VEHICLE BID OPPORTUNITY

**WARD:** ALL

**PREPARED BY AND KEY CONTACT:** R. MONKMAN, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, EXT.#3264  
B. PIRIE, MANAGER OF FLEET SERVICES, EXT 4856

**SUBMITTED BY:** J. LYNN, FIRE CHIEF 

**GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL:** E. ARCHER, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES 

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER APPROVAL:** C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER 

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### **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

1. That a bid be submitted for the acquisition of a vehicle declared surplus by the Province of Ontario to serve as an Emergency Command Centre vehicle for Barrie Fire and Emergency Service with an upset limit as described in Confidential Appendix "A" to Report FES004-13;
2. That funding for the bid, if successful, be provided by the Tax Capital Reserve
3. That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute any related agreements, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services, associated with the acquisition.

### **PURPOSE & BACKGROUND**

#### Purpose

4. The purpose of this report is to recommend the acquisition of an Emergency Command Centre vehicle declared surplus by the Province of Ontario. The vehicle is the subject of a closed bid auction, open only to municipalities, that closes November 1, 2013. Staff recommend the City of Barrie submit a bid which would not only support the purchase of a state-of-the-art vehicle at a greatly reduced cost, but would also eliminate the need for future capital equipment purchases worth in excess of \$750,000.

#### Background

5. An Emergency Command Centre vehicle fulfills several important functions. These include:
  - a) Centralized location for coordinating multi-service responses ("unified command") at emergency scenes
  - b) On-scene administration centre for major investigations
  - c) On-scene rehabilitation centre for firefighters
  - d) On scene location to conduct meetings in privacy and out of the elements
  - e) Provide the ability for multiple allied agencies to work out of at the scene of an incident, which results in an enhanced operation, during short and long term incidents
  - f) Provide current technical support equipment such as radio communications, computer equipment, incident video recording, telephone, access satellite based information and a weather station, to name a few features

- g) Provide a location for those involved in a fire investigation to work from and take advantage of its technical features
  - h) Provide a remote and / or back-up Communications Centre
  - i) Provide scene lighting at an incident
  - j) Provide the ability for those on scene to use washroom facilities
6. Currently, several Ontario municipalities of similar size to Barrie or smaller have an Emergency Command Centre vehicle in their fleet. For those municipalities that do not have one, options are:
- a) Work from a vehicle not intended or properly outfitted to act as a Command Centre
  - b) Or make decisions at a remote location that would not provide updated information and scene survey, in which a sound decision making process would be ineffective.
  - c) Or work from Command Centre, borrowed from another jurisdiction
7. In 2007 Emergency Management Ontario purchased a custom made command centre from SVI, which is located in Fort Collins, Colorado at a cost of approximately \$900,000. After it was outfitted with radios, cameras, satellite and computer equipment it was valued at between \$1.3 and \$1.4 M. Subsequently, the vehicle was used by the Ontario Provincial Police and has seen very limited service. The OPP have removed their radio, and computer related equipment for this vehicle to be liquidated.
8. This apparatus has approx 50,420 kms on it and seen 1693 hours of service, and has been deemed as surplus by the Provincial Government and for sale. It is being sold by bid process, open only to municipalities, which closes November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

### **ANALYSIS**

9. BFES' Command Centre vehicle is out of service. It was originally purchased in 1982. Plans to replace it began to be developed in 2007, but these have been deferred so that limited capital funds could be applied to other corporate priorities.
10. BFES received over 7000 calls for service in 2013, many of which the current Command Centre could have been, deployed. Without the Command Centre, BFES' current practice is to use the Deputy Fire Chief's vehicle as a proxy for a Command Centre. However, this does not fulfill the functions of a bona fide Command Centre vehicle in that it lacks several key features that support the efficient and effective oversight of an emergency scene.
11. Upgrading the current Command Centre is cost prohibitive. For example, upgrading the telecommunications infrastructure (currently rotary-dial telephones) to current corporate standards would cost approximately \$5 – \$10,000. Radio equipment was removed when it reached the end of its useful life and would need to be replaced, at a cost of approximately \$90,000. Required mechanical repairs and bodywork would cost approximately \$30,000. Overall, this level of investment in a 30-year old vehicle is not economical.
12. BFES has trained its officers in the "Blue Card Incident Management System". This is a generally accepted method for incident management designed for local incidents and disasters and used by first responders across North America. One of the identified recommendations to successfully mitigate risk at an incident is providing an appropriate environment for command officers to conduct their work. The Province of Ontario's, adopted Incident Management System is based on the fundamentals of the Blue Card IMS.

13. Members of BFES Administration, IT and Fleet Services have inspected this vehicle and found it to be in near new condition. The specifications are in line with what would have been listed if the City of Barrie were to purchase a new one. The chassis, engine and drive line fall within the BFES apparatus standardization program, which was adopted by Council.
14. BFES cannot use Barrie Police's Command Centre because of CPIC and security issues within Barrie Police Service and the Police Services Act.
15. For the successful and timely mitigation of an incident there needs to be coordinated onsite emergency management Command Centre.
16. The unit is currently painted white and may be placed into service with some basic corporate branding at a minimal cost.
17. This apparatus would be used as the onsite Command unit which could be jointly used for field operations with other allied agencies and have the capacity for onsite meetings. Staff, anticipate the vehicle has a 20 – 25 year useful life. If the bid is successful, it would avoid the need for the corporation to invest in a standalone Command Centre costing approximately \$750,000.
18. A 2014 Capital Needs Justification form has been submitted for inclusion in the 2014 Business Plan deliberations, for a combination Haz Mat / Command Centre at a cost of \$750,000. If the bid is successful, this amount would be reduced by \$250,000.
19. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**
20. There are no environmental matters related to the recommendation.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

21. The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

**Alternative #1**      General Committee could elect not to submit a bid.

The recommended motion takes advantage of a unique opportunity to acquire contemporary equipment at a very low cost. Adopting this alternative eliminates the potential for avoiding over \$750,000 in future capital spending. It would not address the service gap that currently exists within the Fire Service, as the current Command Centre vehicle is out of service and not available for use.

#### **FINANCIAL**

22. A bid for this vehicle would require funding as described in Confidential Appendix "A". These funds would be provided by the Tax Capital Reserve Account.
23. Annual operating expenditures related to the maintenance, and operation of the vehicle would be approximately \$2,500. for the next 5 years. These would be considered as part of the annual business planning process and would not materially affect current planned spending levels. No additional staff resources will be required to implement the recommendation.

#### **LINKAGE TO 2010-2014 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

24. The recommendation(s) included in this Staff Report are not specifically related to the goals identified in the 2010-2014 City Council Strategic Plan.