

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: February 6, 2024
FROM: Central Services
SUBJECT: WHISTLER FIRE RESCUE SERVICES RESCUE PUMPER TRUCK
REPLACEMENT CONTRACT EXTENSION

REPORT: 24-015
FILE: 7200-20

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council authorize staff to enter into contract extensions with Fort Garry Fire Trucks Ltd. for a total price of up to \$2.64 Mm for the purchase of two new Rescue Pumper Trucks for the Whistler Fire Rescue Service and authorize the corporate signatories to execute the agreements.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to request Council's authorization for the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) to enter contract extensions for a total of up to \$2.64 Mm for two new Rescue Pumper Trucks for the Whistler Fire Rescue Service (WFRS).

In accordance with *Administrative Procedure D-1: Procurement*, Council's authorization is required for the RMOW to enter any contract over \$500,000 in value.

☐ Information Report ☒ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

WFRS provides the community with safe, reliable emergency services, structure and wildfire response, inspection services, and education for the community and its guests. With three firehalls that service the community, WFRS works hard to provide timely responses to all emergency situations with a focus on safety, reducing personal injury, minimizing damage, and saving lives.

This report's recommendation is aimed at the ongoing replacement of the aging WFRS First Response Rescue Pumper fleet. The RMOW's two remaining Rescue Pumper Trucks are 24 and 27 years old and have been recommended for retirement by WFRS and Central Services. Moreover, these trucks no longer meet the industry standard set out by the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) Association. When fire

trucks are more than 20 years old the FUS rating is reduced, and this can affect the insurance premiums paid by the community to insure their buildings.

These two new trucks will serve as first response Rescue Pumpers and will be the first trucks to go out to an emergency response from their respective fire hall. These trucks will provide critical response capabilities to emergency situations to which WFRS responds. They support the ability of the WFRS teams to respond with current generation tools, technology, and apparatus required to support efficient life-saving responses within the community. With many upgraded cab and chassis safety features such as full air bag protection and vehicle stability monitoring, they will also provide the industry standard for protection and safety of WFRS first responders while in action.

These trucks will also be built to align in both design and layout with Fire Rescue Pumper Truck currently being built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks. By ordering three similar fire apparatus in a short period of time, the RMOW expects that significant advantages to the WFRS Team will result. All RMOW Rescue Pumper Trucks will have the same layout and design, thereby promoting both maintenance and operating efficiencies. Moving forward with an extension of the existing contract at this time ensures that we will have three similar trucks in our fleet, and with the long-lead time required for production of these trucks, early ordering is important to ensure that trucks will be available by the end of 2027.

The existing old trucks now require increased repairs and maintenance in order to continue to provide reliable service. It is anticipated that keeping the existing trucks any longer will result in the current, relatively minor, though more frequent repairs of items like springs and brakes becoming more expensive repairs such as drive train and pump replacements. In addition, the Garage team is also having ongoing challenges sourcing parts and minimizing the down time of these crucial first response vehicles.

In summary, the replacement trucks are recommended to ensure timely, safe, and reliable response to emergency situations throughout the valley and corridor, both now and for the anticipated 25-year service life of these vehicles. When combining the factors of the age of the current vehicles, the effect apparatus age has on the community's FUS rating, expected major upcoming repairs, fleet congruency, and the opportunity to work with a contractor that exceeded all others in value through the most recent procurement process staff believe it is an appropriate time for replacement of these vehicles.

Analysis

Benefits of the new Rescue Pumper Trucks

Carbon Footprint/ Efficiency: These new trucks will meet the 2021–2024 EPA Greenhouse Gas Regulations for CO₂ emissions which is a considerable improvement over our current model Rescue Pumpers with much lower emission standard ratings. Other benefits include a battery powered Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) system instead of our current on-board diesel generator. This APU will reduce emissions as well as reduce maintenance costs. Note that to staff's knowledge, there are currently no electric drivetrain trucks available that meet local service requirements (e.g., 4x4 drivetrain).

Safety: With modern technology relating to vehicle stabilization and a focus on driver and occupant safety with front and side air bags, these Rescue Pumpers provide a much safer vehicle for WFRS first responders in emergency situations.

Community: Safe, reliable and efficient equipment for first responders is critical to providing the community with fire and emergency response that minimizes harm and damage. Maintaining Whistler's

fleet in a manner that ensures consistent FUS grades for WFRS vehicles and apparatus allows the community to receive stable insurance for their homes and businesses.

Continuity: Having the same layout and design in all three of the Fire Rescue Pumper fleet is an advantage for WFRS first responders. Having familiarity with units at each Fire Hall will provide WFRS first responders increased confidence, efficiency, and ability to react and respond swiftly when it comes to safe and efficient operation of the Fire Rescue apparatus at an emergency scene.

Reliability: As a first response vehicle, the age of the remaining Rescue Pumper Fire Trucks is decreasing their ability to meet the service duty and type of work that they are required to perform.

Procurement Process

The RMOW posted a request for proposals (RFP) to BC Bid for the replacement of one Rescue Pumper Truck from February 1, 2023 until March 29, 2023. Central Services received three complete submissions to the RFP which allowed a competitive and detailed evaluation.

The 2023 proposals were assessed by the RMOW Fire Apparatus Replacement Panel (comprised of Central Services and WFRS staff) according to the assessment criteria and weighting outlined in the RFP (see Figure 1). The submission from Fort Garry Fire Trucks Ltd. best met the needs of the department and was the lowest priced unit. After checking references to ensure the proponent was qualified to do the work, staff recommended (and Council resolved) to award the 2023 RMOW Fire Rescue Pumper replacement to Fort Garry Fire Trucks Ltd.

The 2023 RFP included language that enabled an extension of the contract. The 2023 Contract indicated that the RMOW, in its sole and absolute discretion, based on mutual agreement of price and service, may purchase additional similar trucks.

If approved by Council, the intent is to order two additional trucks immediately. Manufacturing and assembly processes would commence this year, and ultimately the trucks would be completed for delivery to the RMOW in 2025 and 2027.

V145REP Evaluation						
	SPEC EVALUATION	PRICING EVALUATION	SUSTAINABILITY	TOTAL SCORE	NOTES	
FORT GARRY	29.18	40	30	99.18	WINNING PROPONENT	
SAFETEK	27.23	35.35	30.00	92.58	2ND PLACE	
COMMERCIAL	26.90	32.58	0.00	59.49	3RD PLACE	
					Evaluation Breakdown	
				i.	Ability to meet Spec of Vehicles Listed	30%
				ii.	SUSTAINABILITY & Environmental factors	30%
				iii.	Pricing – Appendix E	40%
				TOTAL		100%

Figure 1. 2023 Proposal evaluation

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

[June 6, 2023, Administrative Report No. 23-063](#): Council authorized the RMOW to enter into a contract with Fort Garry Fire Trucks Ltd. to provide a Rescue Pumper truck for WFRS.

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

The [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priorities

☐ Housing

Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing.

☐ Climate Action

Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan by supporting the safe and enjoyable use of the Whistler Transit System.

☐ Community Engagement

Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW.

☐ Smart Tourism

Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets, and infrastructure.

☒ Not Applicable

Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs.

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

Environment – Protection of the environment is an integral part of the community's Vision, and the purchase of this Rescue Pumper will provide a lower emissions footprint and improve the ability to protect the environment from the threat of fire.

Community – Ensuring the community's housing and businesses are protected with an appropriate level of equipment in a financially responsible fashion touches several aspects of the community vision. When considering the FUS rating of the community this purchase will ensure the FUS ratings for the community are maintained.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed recommendation of adding two Rescue Pumpers to the current contract brings the total to three Rescue Pumper replacements and finalizes the replacement of all the WFRS Rescue Pumper fleet. The proposed purchase of these two additional fire trucks will represent a significant portion of the overall fleet replacement program over the next four years.

The approved 2024-28 Five-Year budget for the Fleet Replacement Project is as follows:

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Y001 Fleet Replacement	2,143,000	3,267,000	2,140,000	800,000	843,000

This is the budget for all fleet purchases, not just the Rescue Pumper Truck purchases.

2024 Rescue Pumper replacement program includes:

- \$700,000 for the balance of the initial (2023) Rescue Pumper Truck from the existing contract
- \$770,000 for the purchase of one of the two Rescue Pumper cab and chassis as recommended in this report (inclusive of a contingency of \$50,000)
- Total of \$1,470,000

2025 Rescue Pumper replacement program includes:

- \$550,000 for the balance payout of the completed first of the two Rescue Pumper Trucks recommended in this report (total vehicle cost: \$1,320,000)
- \$770,000 for the purchase of the third Rescue Pumper cab and chassis to be built and completed in 2027
- Total of \$1,320,000

2026 no spending anticipated for Rescue Pumper replacement.

2027 Rescue Pumper replacement program includes:

- \$550,000 for the balance of the third (and final) Rescue Pumper proposed in this recommendation (total vehicle cost: \$1,320,000)
- Total of \$550,000

Funding for these new trucks will require operating cost increases in the Fire fleet budget for the next four years, resulting in an increased tax requisition as the existing Vehicle Replacement Reserve is insufficient to fund all the anticipated purchases. With warranties in place, staff are forecasting very little in maintenance costs with the new units for the first five years of operation.

LÍ'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

There are no specific considerations to include in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

SUMMARY

Staff recommend Council award the contract for the purchase of two additional Rescue Pumper Fire Trucks from Fort Garry Fire Trucks Ltd. through extension of the existing contract in accordance with their tender proposal dated March 29, 2023 for a cost of up to \$2.64 Mm.

SIGN-OFFS

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