



| STAFF REPORT                             |
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| SUBMITTED BY: Dwayne Hunt                |
| DATE: January 15, 2025                   |
| SUBJECT: IBPFD boat purchase endorsement |

## ORIGIN

The Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department (IBPFD) intends to place an order for a Boat. This staff report is intended to provide details on the order and seek the endorsement of Council. The boat will have ocean and inland water capabilities

## BACKGROUND

In 2019, we implemented a new multi-year funding formula for our fire departments and developed a replacement plan for vehicles (attached). In the past, fire truck purchases were brought to Council for approval because they involved a discussion on budget and possible area rate changes.

Now that we have a multi-year funding formula and replacement plan, when there are changes in the replacement plan it is brought to Council for endorsement

## DISCUSSION

First, plans and strategies are crucial to efficient operations and financial management. That said, we all know that plans and strategies are able to change after they are implemented. Planning is fundamentally an awareness-generating process. It helps identify goals, resources, timelines, drag points, and key assumptions. It helps do something more intelligently and effectively, for it helps avoid the swamps of a project and find the straight paths and favorable winds. It is true that you may still end up in a swamp or perhaps the weather will change, but the very reason we have a word like “unexpected” is that there are an awful lot of things that are not predictable.

Our vehicle replacement plan is no different. As time goes on, the departments plan for the future but also adjust for new developments or unexpected issues. In this case, the department has made sound financial decisions which have allowed them to purchase this asset within the financial framework we have in place.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The boat they are ordering will require a loan of \$160,000 and will be spring or summer before delivery. The loan they currently have on the 2014 pumper/tanker will be paid off in the 2025/2026 fiscal year and they will provide the first year boat loan payment and down payment required from their fundraising monies which will maintain the funding framework currently in place. The loan will be for a term of 5 years with hopes of paying it off sooner.

The vehicle that was scheduled to be replaced was sold previously in a prior adjustment to the replacement plan as it was deemed unnecessary for their operations.

Their next truck replacement is scheduled for 2030 when other loans will be paid.

For this reason, there will be no impact on the area rate or budget to purchase this boat. Regardless, this is the process we have followed on previous changes from the originally scheduled replacement. This revision meets the requirement of loans being paid off before new trucks are purchased that was emphasized when the current funding arrangement was put in place.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

## RECOMMENDATION

As mentioned, the vehicle replacement plan will change over time as fire departments react to current realities or adjust to future operations. This latest request shows that the fire departments are planning ahead to meet the goals of working within the funding framework and keeping an adequate fleet of up to-date equipment.

As mentioned, this is the latest capital purchase that is being requested since the implementation of our multi-year funding formula and vehicle replacement plan. We feel this process of advising you when an order is being considered, receiving an endorsement of that order and then assessing its impact on the funding formula and budget in more detail during the following fiscal year's budgeting process is our best option. The fire departments are showing good foresight and long-term planning for capital purchases within the financial framework that is in place, and we feel we should honour our commitment in providing them the flexibility to make those adjustments.

We also strongly feel that notifying you of any changes in the plan can and should be done in the same way we have previously as it will be fair across the board. The fire departments will be required to meet the same criteria of paying off loans before new trucks are bought and keeping the amount in their

budget for loan payments the same so there would be no impact on the area rate they have in place or other areas of their budget.

**For the reasons outlined in this report, it is recommended that Council endorse the order of a new boat by the Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department.**

#### SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to recommend to Council that the Municipality endorse the order of a new Boat by the Island and Barrington Passage Fire Department.

#### ATTACHMENTS



Boat Purchase.msg