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DONATION OF YORK REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DECOMMISSIONED AMBULANCES

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated February 26, 2010, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Regional Council authorize the donation of one York Region Emergency Medical Services ambulance that was decommissioned from service in 2010 to Centennial College in Toronto.
2. Regional Council authorize the donation of one York Region Emergency Medical Services ambulance that was decommissioned from service in 2010 to the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario.
3. Regional Council authorize the donation of one York Region Emergency Medical Services ambulance to a suitable humanitarian organization in support of the Haitian recovery efforts (a relief organization in Haiti yet to be identified).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain authorization from Regional Council to donate three decommissioned York Region Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulances.

3. BACKGROUND

Requests for donation of EMS vehicles are periodically received from community agencies

York Region EMS periodically receives requests from community agencies asking for ambulances slated for decommissioning, to be provided as a donation, to support the organization's various program requirements. In general, these agencies are not-for profit charitable agencies. Most recently, Regional Council approved the donation of two decommissioned Ambulance to the St. John Ambulance York Region Branch in 2009 and one Ambulance to the Friends of Ecuador in 2007.

Similar requests for the donation of decommissioned ambulances have been approved by other GTA municipalities

Similar to the requests received by the Region of York, other GTA municipalities have approved requests from agencies for the donation of Ambulances. Organizations receiving donated Ambulances have included amateur radio emergency services, St. John Ambulance, the Red Cross, a First Nation Community and various humanitarian relief agencies in South America and the Caribbean. It does not appear as if these municipalities have a policy framework or criteria for the donation of vehicles but York Region EMS are considering the development of one for Council's consideration, to assist in assessing future requests.

Partnership opportunities have been identified in support of broader community benefits

Centennial College has sent a Letter of Interest (*see Attachment 1*) regarding a proposed donation of one ambulance from York Region EMS. The letter confirms their interest in working with the Region to arrange this donation from York Region EMS for the purpose of supporting and meeting the driver training requirements of their Paramedics Program.

The Ontario Police College has sent a letter of request (*see Attachment 2*) to York Region EMS requesting the donation of an ambulance to enhance their educational programs for their police training. Currently all new police recruits in Ontario, including York Regional Police, are required to attend the Ontario Police College for initial training and return throughout their career for upgraded training. One of the strengths of the programs is the ability to provide realistic simulation, including driving. They have numerous police vehicles that have been donated, but they do not have an ambulance. More frequently EMS and police are responding to calls and on occasion police are asked to drive ambulances to hospital to help facilitate patient care activities or they are required to ride in the back with patients and at times assist with care. At this time, there is no ability for police to practise driving or experience the movements in the back of a moving ambulance in a controlled setting.

On January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti near the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The effect of the earthquake and its many aftershocks has been catastrophic. With much of Haiti's infrastructure damaged, including homes, schools, hospitals and government buildings, an international relief effort is underway. Funds are required to help find survivors, give medical attention and provide food, water and shelter to displaced residents. This medical attention can be provided, in part, through the donation of a decommissioned ambulance.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

York Region EMS ambulances are replaced based on an established life cycle of 54 months or when the mileage exceeds 250,000 kilometres. In order to maintain the vehicle fleet consistent with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's required preventative maintenance program recommendations, York Region EMS has developed a 10-year Capital Vehicle Replacement Plan. Under normal circumstances, decommissioned ambulances are sold through auction annually along with other regional vehicles. This year, York Region EMS will be decommissioning 11 ambulances as part of its vehicle replacement strategy.

Supporting the education of future paramedics in the GTA

York Region EMS recruits paramedics from several accredited community colleges in the province. Centennial College is one of them. The donation of a used ambulance to support the learning requirements of Centennial College's students of paramedicine would benefit not only the students, but York Region EMS as the students would be more familiar with the type of vehicles we use.

Preparing police officers to assist EMS agencies

Ontario Police College is the only college of its type in Ontario. Graduates of their programs include York Regional Police. On occasion members of York Regional Police could be asked to join faculty at the college as well. The course includes simulation exercises using actual house structures, business store fronts, and vehicles. They have an assortment of police vehicles for pursuits, but an ambulance is not available to integrate into their simulations. Police officers return from their training programs better prepared to carry out their duties having acquired a familiarity with basic operations and feel of an ambulance.

Supporting the relief efforts in Haiti

Though officially the rescue/search for survivors phase is over, fears of a pandemic exist and injuries to Haitians and relief workers still occur. The military, UN troops and other services are coordinating the relief efforts: opening/clearing roads, distributing food and water, securing areas to maintain peace and safety, and transporting the injured. More ambulances are needed to transport the injured safely to field hospitals and to bring medical help to remote areas as well.

The donation of a used ambulance to support the relief efforts in Haiti will benefit not only the survivors, but the relief personnel as well. Staff will liaise with Global Medic, an Ontario-based, not-for-profit humanitarian disaster relief organization, to determine the best utilization of the ambulance.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Regional Purchasing By-laws, any property belonging to the Region declared surplus by a user department shall be disposed of only by means of auction, tender or quotation by Supplies and Services, provided that any usable equipment or material has first been offered to other user departments or public agencies within the Region. Based on the previous sales of ambulances at auctions, the net value of a decommissioned ambulance can range between \$3,000 to \$10,000 based on the vehicle condition, mileage, and demand.

The vehicles proposed for donation have an approximate value of \$6,500 each, based on decommissioned ambulances previously auctioned, for a net donation value of \$19,500.

Centennial College, the Ontario Police College and a relief organization in Haiti yet to be identified, will incur all costs associated with vehicle transfer, branding and maintenance. In addition, Global Medic will incur all associated costs for the shipping and handling of the ambulance from York Region to the selected relief organization in Haiti.

York Region EMS budgeted \$68,000 for the sale of vehicles in 2010. The \$19,500 reduction in revenue will be managed within the 2010 budget and will have no tax levy impact. Further, prior to donating the York Region EMS ambulance, Centennial College, Ontario Police College, and the yet-to-be-identified relief organization in Haiti, will be required to acknowledge in writing that York Region makes no representations or warranties that the ambulance is in good operating condition or in a state of proper repair.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Partnerships with Ontario colleges, such as Centennial College, promotes forward-thinking learning for students living in York Region who attend Centennial College as well as good public relations and excellent exposure. Police officers are better prepared to respond to the needs of the community and work cohesively with other regional services including York Region EMS. The chosen relief organization will be better equipped to respond to the needs of the Haitian community's and the Regional and international community's concern for the well-being of those in Haiti.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region will benefit from the knowledge that our donation will enhance post secondary school programs and the donated ambulances will continue to be utilized as a learning tool for students that attend these educational programs and perhaps one day work for the Region.

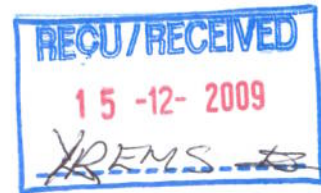
It is recommended that Regional Council authorize the donation of decommissioned York Region EMS ambulances to Centennial College, the Ontario Police College and the yet-to-be-identified relief organization in Haiti in order to further develop community partnerships.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, General Manager, Emergency Medical Services, at Ext. 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The two attachments referred to in this clause were included in the agenda for the March 10, 2010 Committee meeting.)

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December 10, 2009

Norm Barrette
General Manager, York Region EMS
520 Cane Parkway
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 8T5

Reference: Letter of Interest – Proposed Donation of Ambulance from York Region EMS

Dear Mr. Barrette:

Thank you for your support and expressed interest in considering the donation of a used ambulance to support the learning requirements of our students.

This letter is to confirm Centennial College's interest in working with York Region to arrange this donation from York Region EMS for the purpose of supporting and meeting the driver training requirements of our Paramedicine Program.

We acknowledge and fully accept the condition that, at the point where Centennial College de-commissions the donated vehicle, that the college will arrange for its disposal and warrants that it will not be sold to another interest.

On behalf of our students and faculty, we look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra Murphy
Dean, School of Community and Health Studies

Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Ontario Police College

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December 24, 2009



Mr. Steve Darling
Manager – Performance & Management
Emergency Medical Services
Community and Health Services Department
520 Cane Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 8T5

Dear Sir:

Re: Ontario Police College – Donation Request

I am writing to thank you and your colleagues for taking the time to visit the Ontario Police College and view our facilities on November 13, 2009.

During the tour of our Dynamic Simulation Area, I explained how we put the police trainees through a variety of real life simulations to assist in their training. You may have noticed that we have a variety of police vehicles to draw from, all with the graphics and markings of their home service. We are proud of the facility that we have, and our ability to bring high quality training forward.

With this in mind, I am making a formal request to the Emergency Medical Services of York Region for the donation of a used ambulance to assist in our simulations. The Ontario Police College would get a great deal of use from a used ambulance to make our simulations even more realistic, and enhance our training programs. The ambulance would only be used "on-campus", and would not leave the OPC property.

I hope that this request meets with your approval. If you have any questions regarding the training offered at the Ontario Police College, please feel free to give me a call at (519) 773-4516.

Yours truly,

Bill Stephens
Deputy Director
Senior & Special Courses
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