

2

DONATION OF DECOMMISSIONED AMBULANCES FOR 2011

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated June 1, 2011, 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 2011 to High Adventure Gospel Communication Ministries for a medical centre project in Ongutoi, Uganda.
2. Regional Council authorize the donation of one York Region Emergency Medical Services ambulance that was decommissioned from service in 2011 to 1st York Region EMS Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval, in accordance with Council-approved guidelines, for the donation of decommissioned surplus ambulances to registered not-for-profit, community service or humanitarian organizations.

3. BACKGROUND

Regional Council approved guidelines and procedures in evaluating decommissioned ambulance donation requests

At the meeting on February 17, 2011, Regional Council approved Clause No. 6 of Report No. 2 of the Community and Health Services Committee adopting guidelines and procedures for evaluating donation requests.

The guidelines and procedures are as follows:

Guidelines:

- 1) A maximum of 25% of the decommissioned surplus vehicles may be donated in any given calendar year.
- 2) Donations will only occur to registered not-for-profit, community or international humanitarian organizations of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
- 3) Preference, in order of priority, will be as follows:
 - a) Regional or local uses
 - b) Provincial/Federal/International Relief or other organizations
- 4) Organizations must also follow general guidelines, as outlined with the Community Development Investment Fund that relate to not being affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere and support the Human Rights Code.

Procedures:

- 1) A report will be forwarded for Council approval each time a request has been received that complies with the guidelines for donation.
- 2) Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation.
- 3) Prior to accepting the donation the organization will be required to acknowledge in writing that The Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle and that they are assuming ownership on an “as is” basis.

EMS will be decommissioning 11 ambulances in 2011 resulting in two ambulances being available for donation under Council guidelines.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Four requests for donated ambulances have been received in the last 12 months from various agencies

Table 1 summarises the agencies requesting a donation.

Table 1
Agencies Requesting Ambulance Donations

Agency	Indicated Purpose	Request Consistent with Guidelines
High Adventure Gospel Communications Ministries	Support a 40 to 60 bed medical centre providing maternal, paediatric and general surgical care in Ongutoi, Uganda.	Yes
1 st York Region EMS Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada	Serve as a stationary first aid post at community events and support youth training program.	Yes
Kingston Police Community Volunteers Inc.	Replace existing vehicle for use as a command post during missing person search activities and community events.	Partial, however a local Paramedic Service Agency is present in the community and may be best positioned to consider the request.
St. John Ambulance – Sault Sainte Marie	Replace current vehicle used for community events.	Partial, however a local Paramedic Service Agency is present in the community and may be best positioned to consider the request.

In reviewing all of the received requests, both the High Adventure Gospel Communications Ministries and the 1st York Region EMS Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada are consistent with the donation guidelines.

High Adventure Gospel Communications Ministries (HAGCM) is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO). HAGCM is a registered NGO in Canada, registered under #107480626RR0001 and administered from offices within Newmarket. The Ongutoi Project in Uganda, currently operates with one ambulance. The York Region EMS decommissioned ambulance would become the second ambulance servicing their district and would afford a level of reasonable service.

The Medical Venturer and Medical Rover (MedVents) is a vocational program in Scouts Canada for youth who are interested in exploring career opportunities related to Paramedicine. The program promotes an understanding of the operations of the Emergency Medical System and the practical skills that Paramedics and First Responders utilize in their daily work. An ambulance will provide many opportunities for the MedVents at various service events and be a part of their ongoing training program.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If it is not being donated, a decommissioned ambulance is sold at auction. Based on the previous sales of ambulances at auction, the net value of a decommissioned ambulance can be between \$3,000 to \$5,000 based on the vehicle condition, mileage and demand.

The foregone revenues would be approximately \$10,000. The reduction in revenue has been included in the 2011 EMS approved operating budget. Any expense for shipping, permits and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation. There is no added expense to the Region. It is the responsibility of the receiving organization to inspect and prepare the vehicle or equipment for use in accordance with local regulation.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

A partnership with community agencies such as 1st York Region EMS Medical Venturers and Rovers – Scouts Canada enhances vocational opportunities for youth fostering the development of leadership, and community service.

7. CONCLUSION

York Region will benefit from the knowledge that the donation of decommissioned ambulances will support international relief and local community agencies.

It is recommended that Regional Council authorize the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to High Adventure Gospel Communication Ministries for a medical centre project in Ongutoi, Uganda as well as donate a decommissioned ambulance to the 1st York Region EMS Medical Venturers and Rovers.

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

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.