

Report to Civic Works Committee

To: Chair and Members
Infrastructure and Corporate Services Committee

From: Anna Lisa Barbon, CPA, CGA
Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports

Subject: Emergency Repair of Line Painting Truck

Date: April 9, 2025

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Finance Supports, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the emergency repair of the City's Line Painting Truck:

- a) The purchase order issued for the emergency repairs on the Line Painting Truck by Core Equipment Inc. under Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy at a total cost of \$69,583.14 (HST excluded), **BE CONFIRMED**; and,
- b) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this project.

Executive Summary

This report provides a record of the approval to repair the City's sole Traffic Line Painting truck under "14.2 Procurement in Emergencies" provision in the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy. The truck requires significant repairs to address systemic issues with its paint and hydraulic systems. Due to the extended lead time for parts and the urgency of having the truck operational for this upcoming painting season, immediate action was necessary. This emergency repair will enhance the efficiency and ensure continuity of line painting operations, support road safety initiatives, and ensure compliance with provincial requirements.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

This recommendation supports the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan in the following areas:

- Mobility and Transportation – The strategic plan aims to enhance the reliability, quality, and safety of all modes of transportation.
- Wellbeing and Safety – Prioritizing traffic safety for all Londoners.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

Traffic Line Painting Truck Unit #28-002 was purchased in 2020 through the award of RFT18-111 from Road Services International (RSI) in Brantford, Ontario. Since coming into service, this unit has experienced persistent performance and reliability issues, resulting in costly repairs and systemic overheating problems. Despite collaborating with the truck's Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), these issues remain unresolved. Major components including the Power Take-Off gearbox and air compressor have already been replaced. These mechanical failures have resulted in significant downtime, severely hindering the City's ability to maintain road pavement markings internally.

Recently, Fleet staff attempted to diagnose another instance of the air compressor overheating. Upon review, RSI was unable to provide any solutions for the recurring issues. In contrast, Core Equipment Inc., a highly recommended company in the Line Painting industry, has examined the systemic problems over the winter and proposed a repair and retrofit solution in late February.

1.1 Previous Reports Related to this Matter

None.

1.2 Emergency Repair

The Procurement of Goods and Services Policy outlines the processes that Civic Administration is required to follow to obtain the best value when purchasing goods or contracting services. In the event of an “Emergency”, section 14.2 Procurement in Emergencies permits Civic Administration to purchase goods/services under “Emergency” conditions in a non-competitive manner. In this section, “Emergency” means: “an event or occurrence that the City Manager or Deputy City Manager deems an immediate threat to:

- Public Health;
- The maintenance of essential City services; or
- The welfare and protection of persons, property, or the environment; and the event or occurrence necessitates the immediate need for goods or services to mitigate the emergency and time does not permit for a competitive procurement process.”

When section 14.2 is used, Civic Administration is required to follow defined protocols, and the emergency procurement must be reported to Committee and Council. As this asset is the only City unit that can perform line painting and considering the significant lead time for parts availability and repairs, emergency procurement was initiated to maintain this essential City service.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

Road pavement markings in Ontario are essential for ensuring the safe, efficient, and organized flow of traffic, as mandated by the the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 11. Line painting plays a critical role in enhancing safety by guiding drivers on lane usage, turns, crosswalks, intersections, and pedestrian zones, thereby reducing confusion and collisions. Reflective markings enhance visibility in adverse weather and at night, providing guidance for all road users. Consistent and well-maintained road markings contribute to public satisfaction and trust in the City's infrastructure management.

The Line Painting Truck, unit 28-002, is responsible for applying and maintaining road pavement markings. As the City's sole truck supporting in-house line painting operations, which commence every spring, it has faced many mechanical challenges, resulting in significant downtime. The City's implementation of road safety initiatives and its inherent growth have resulted in increased demand for line marking. Maintaining in-house capability helps with continuity, flexibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness.

At the end of the line painting season, Core Equipment agreed to investigate Unit 28-002's reliability and performance issues and presented a comprehensive proposal to the City in late February. The proposed solution involves implementing a hydraulic driveline system that will deliver consistent compressor drive speed, independent of the truck's engine RPM. The repairs include parts with very long lead times, necessitating immediate action to ensure the truck is operational for the upcoming line painting season. We are confident that Core Equipment's prompt retrofits and necessary repairs will result in a more reliable line painting truck.

3.0 Financial Impact

The repair and retrofit of the hydraulic drive system on the Line Painting Truck Unit 28-002 will cost \$69,583.14 (excluding HST). A Purchase Order was issued to Core Equipment Inc. for this work, with an estimated lead time of 10-12 weeks for parts and 1-2 weeks for installation and testing. Funding for this repair is supported by the adopted operating budgets of Fleet Services and Road Operations.

Conclusion

This report highlights the critical role of road pavement markings and underscores the importance of ensuring the sole line painting truck is ready and capable for the upcoming line painting season. By using the emergency procurement measures in section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy, Fleet Services were able to expedite the repair process to maintain service levels.

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Doug MacRae, Director, Transportation & Mobility
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