

Report to Community and Protective Services Committee

To: Chair and Members,
Community and Protective Services Committee

From: Cheryl Smith, Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and
Community-Wide Services

Subject: London Fire Department Emergency Repairs

Date: May 11, 2021

Recommendation

That, on the recommendation of the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services, the following report on London Fire Department Emergency Repairs **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Executive Summary

This report updates Council on emergency repairs undertaken on two fire engines to prevent interruptions to the level of service provided by the London Fire Department.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan

Strengthening our Community

The London Fire Department Emergency Repairs are aligned with the following strategic area of focus and outcome from the City of London Strategic Plan 2019-2023:

- Strengthening our Community – Londoners have access to the services and supports that promote well-being, health, and safety in their neighbourhoods and across the city.

Analysis

1.0 Background Information

1.1 Context

The London Fire Department (LFD) relies on having a number of spare vehicles available to replace front-line vehicles that require maintenance. Without an adequate number of spare vehicles, the level of service could be impacted. LFD works to mitigate this type of situation by having all apparatus regularly serviced by the LFD Mechanical Division and by placing large apparatus on a 20-year lifecycle schedule.

The two spare engines that required emergency repairs to the frame rails were built in 2007. These frame rails were made of steel. Since 2016, fire apparatus have been tendered by the LFD to include galvanized frame rails, which are expected to withstand the daily wear and climate conditions.

2.0 Discussion and Considerations

2.1 Severity of Issue Leading to Emergency Repairs

In October 2020, after conducting an annual Ministry of Transportation inspection on these two engines, the Mechanical Division identified that there was significant frame rail rot present. After being notified, the manufacturer conducted a detailed analysis. Their findings resulted in the LFD taking these two engines out of service until repaired

or replaced. The current lifecycle standard for all large vehicles is 20 years (17 years front-line plus three additional years as a spare). It should be noted that there is a wait time of about 18 months to purchase and outfit new vehicles of this size and capacity. Therefore, in the interest of maintaining a consistent level of service, Civic Administration met with Purchasing to explore immediate next steps.

Based on Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy (see below), the Deputy City Manager, Neighbourhood and Community-Wide Services provided approval to have these two engines urgently repaired.

Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods & Services Policy

Procurement in Emergencies

For the purposes of this section, “Emergency” means an event or occurrence that the City Manager or Managing Director deem as 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.

In the event of an Emergency the City Manager or Managing Director and their respective delegates, Fire Chief or a Deputy Fire Chief, or Chief Building Official or Deputy Chief Building Official, are authorized to enter into a purchase agreement without the requirement for a formal competitive process.

A list of pre-qualified suppliers will be used to select the suppliers, whenever possible.

Where the procurement cost to mitigate the Emergency is anticipated to exceed \$50,000, there must be a notification sent (e-mail contact is acceptable) to the Manager of Purchasing and Supply (or delegate). The steps taken to mitigate the Emergency must always be clearly documented regardless of amount and where the aggregate costs for a single supplier are in excess of \$50,000, the emergency procurement shall be reported by the responsible Managing Director to Committee and City Council (including the source of financing) at the next scheduled meeting following the event.

2.2 Details of Repairs

Following approval of these urgent repairs, the recommendation was to have Engine 21 repaired at Dependable Emergency Vehicles and Engine 24 repaired at Chief’s Heavy Truck Collision to expedite the needed work and return these vehicles to the road to prevent an impact on the level of service.

On April 19, 2021, Engine 21 was shipped to Dependable Emergency Vehicles. There are an estimated 450 hours of work required to complete the frame rail replacement. This work includes lifting the body and cab, removing ancillary equipment, replacing the frame rails, and then reassembling the apparatus.

On May 4, 2021, Engine 24 was shipped to Chief’s Heavy Truck Collision. There are an estimated 450 hours of work required to complete this frame rail replacement as well.

3.0 Next Steps

LFD will continue to have all vehicles regularly inspected and serviced by its Mechanical Division. There are seven more apparatus in the fleet with steel frame rails that are showing similar issues to Engines 21 and 24 and will likely need service before the current lifecycle is complete. Plans are being made to mitigate these expenses. These plans include scheduling lifecycle replacements to minimize expenses, organizing

processes to ensure vehicles that require repair are serviced in a timely manner, and maintaining vehicles for a period of time after expense to ensure a return on investment.

In addition, LFD is in the process of drafting the Fire Master Plan, which will go to the Community and Protective Services Committee in September 2021. This 10-year Plan provides an overall vision, direction, and guidance for Council to make decisions about service improvements and enhancements through fire hall locations, fleet configuration, and any other elements that affect the delivery of fire services to match the growing needs of the community. As part of the development of this Plan, Civic Administration is reviewing the current lifecycle of all fire department vehicles.

4.0 Financial Impact/Considerations

The cost of repairs for Engine 21 is estimated at \$79,032.00 +HST and the cost of repairs for Engine 24 is estimated at \$74,612.59 +HST. The funding for these emergency repairs will be accommodated within LFD's 2021 operational budget.

Conclusion

Emergency repairs to Engines 21 and 24 as per Section 14.2 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy were required to minimize the impact to service levels to maintain essential City services.

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