

<b>To:</b>	Warden Halliday and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	June 28, 2018
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	PSR-CW-06-18
<b>Title:</b>	Purchase of a Community Paramedic Response Vehicle
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kevin McNab
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Kim Wingrove, Kevin Wepler
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	None
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee of the Whole as presented as per Resolution CW168-18; Endorsed by County Council on July 12, 2018.

## Recommendation

1. That Report PSR-CW-06-18 for the purchase of a community paramedic response vehicle be received and that staff proceed with the purchasing of a vehicle as detailed in this report; and
2. That the acquisition of this vehicle, estimated at \$60,000 be funded from the Paramedic Services Reserve and the reserve be repaid annually from community paramedic base program funding provided by the South West Local Health Integration Network (SWLHIN); and
3. That emergency response unit 1314 be disposed of as per section 10.02 of Grey County's Purchasing Procedure.

## Executive Summary

The 2018/2019 estimated budget to operate the current community paramedic program is \$261,527 and the funding from the SWLHIN (\$262,600) can support the acquisition of a vehicle if the Paramedic Services Reserve fronts the purchase. The total purchase price of a community paramedic vehicle including conversion is estimated at \$60,000; if a seven year useful life is used, that would require an annual repayment to the Paramedic Services Reserve of \$8,571.

Up until October 2017 Paramedic Services utilized four vehicles for supervisory, administration and community paramedic services. It was determined at that point that the 2008 Ford was not worthy of repair and was decommissioned. Paramedic Services staff would like to return to the four vehicles to allow for seamless delivery of supervisor, administrative and community paramedic services.

The community paramedic is utilized for emergency first response if they are the closest responder to an emergency call. The community paramedic will first respond in the capacity of a primary care paramedic until an ambulance arrives.

If funding from the SWLHIN for the community paramedic program was to cease prior to funds borrowed from the Paramedic Services Reserve being repaid and the vehicle was no longer required, it would be sold.

## Background and Discussion

The Grey County community paramedic program began operations in January of 2015. Initial funding was provided by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Home and Community Care Branch as a part of a trial to determine if community paramedics conducting non-emergency home visits could decrease health care costs and improve the health of patients living with chronic diseases. Initial reports from across the Province have shown a benefit from community paramedic programs including the one offered in Grey County. The County is awaiting the results of the Expanding Paramedicine in the Community (EPIC) trial. In February of 2017 the community program which at that time was operational seven days a week was suspended due to a shortfall in funding.

On May 11, 2017, the County was notified by the SWLHIN that base funding for the community paramedic program would be provided. The total funding for the 2017/2018 year was \$254,600. To stay within the allotted funding, the community paramedic program was re-implemented on a five day rotation running on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week. The community paramedic program began operations again in August of 2017. In February 2018, the County was notified that an additional \$8,000 in base funding would be received for a total of \$262,600 yearly. Although the funding for the community paramedic program is considered base funding, the SWLHIN continues to complete a value for money assessment.

The 2018/2019 estimated budget to operate the current community paramedic program is \$261,527 and can accommodate an annual contribution towards the purchase of a vehicle. The total purchase price of a community paramedic vehicle, including conversion is estimated at \$60,000; staff recommends that the vehicle purchase be funded from the Paramedic Services Reserve with an annual repayment over the estimated seven year useful life of \$8,571 per year. Budgeting under the MOHLTC for the original community paramedic program did not include funding for a vehicle as it was an in kind contribution to the program. Vehicles currently utilized for the program are supervisor emergency response vehicles that are retained beyond their replacement cycle. The current vehicle is a 2009 Chevrolet Silverado with 352,858 km. The previous vehicle utilized was a 2008 Ford F150 with over 400,000 km on it when it was retired in October of 2017.

The current fleet of Grey County emergency response vehicles consists of the following:

- 1) 2009 Chevrolet Silverado, Unit 1314 – Community Paramedic/Administrative with 352,858 km
- 2) 2013 GMC Sierra, Unit 1313 – Backup Supervisor/On-call with 311,162 km
- 3) 2014 Chevrolet Silverado, Unit 1311 – Supervisor Frontline with 236,200 km

Up until October 2017 paramedic services utilized four vehicles for supervisory, administration and community paramedic services. It was determined at that point that the 2008 Ford was not

worthy of repair and was decommissioned. Paramedic Services staff would like to return to the four vehicles to allow for seamless delivery of supervisor, administrative and community paramedic services. This year unit 1313 will be replaced as the backup supervisor vehicle and will be moved to be utilized primarily for administrative purposes. If the purchase of a community paramedic response vehicle is approved, the 2018 emergency response vehicle fleet will consist of the following:

- 1) 2013 GMC Sierra, Unit 1313 – Administrative
- 2) 2014 Chevrolet Silverado, Unit 1311 – Backup Supervisor/On-call
- 3) 2018 Supervisor Frontline (budgeted for 2018, to be tendered)
- 4) 2018 Community Paramedic

The community paramedic is also utilized for emergency first response if they are the closest responder to an emergency call. The community paramedic will first respond in the capacity of a primary care paramedic until an ambulance arrives. To allow for an emergency response to a call, the vehicle must be certified as an emergency response vehicle in the Province of Ontario. Once the Chatsworth base is operational the community paramedic will work out of that base allowing for first response at the beginning and end of each shift.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

All emergency response vehicles purchased for use in the department must be certified compliant with the current Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard (Version 5.0, September 28, 2012).

## Financial and Resource Implications

If funding from the SWLHIN for the community paramedic program was to cease prior to funds borrowed from the Paramedic Services Reserve being repaid and the vehicle was no longer required, it would be sold. The estimated purchase price is \$60,000 and the reserve would be repaid \$8,571 annually over the vehicle's estimated seven year useful life. The Paramedic Services Reserve is expected to have a balance of \$1,642,032 at year end after taking into consideration this unbudgeted purchase.

The purchasing policy regarding disposal of surplus goods (relating to Emergency Response Unit 1314) is as follows:

### 10.02 Disposal of Surplus Goods

c. Purchasing shall ascertain whether items falling into their respective authorities can be of use to another municipality or division rather than disposed of.

d. Items that are not required by another municipality or division may be disposed of using a public process that will take into consideration the type of materials being disposed of and the cost-benefit to the municipality. An example of this is a public auction website. Trade-in options may also be considered as a form of disposal.

## Relevant Consultation

External:

Internal: CAO, Finance

## Appendices and Attachments

None