



Corporate Report

NO.: R236

COUNCIL DATE: November 17, 2003

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: October 31, 2003
FROM: **Fire Chief** FILE: 1220-20
SUBJECT: **Purchase of 1 only Aerial Ladder Quint Fire Apparatus including Equipment**

RECOMMENDATION

City Council authorize the Fire Chief to execute a purchase agreement for one 1500 GPM Triple Combination Pumper Fire Truck including ancillary equipment with Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. for a total cost of approximately CDN\$1,027,952.70, including applicable sales taxes and rebates.

BACKGROUND

In the 2002 capital budget Council authorized the purchase of one Quintuple (Quint) combination apparatus consisting of a pumper, ladder and rescue equipped unit. Due to the newness of the concept and the lateness of existing three units that were received (April 22, 2002) it was determined by the fire service that a further period of time was required prior to continuation with the purchase of additional Quint. **Now that more than one-year of usage has passed we have determined to proceed as authorized by Council in the 2002 capital budget with the purchase of an additional Quint at a cost of \$ 1,027,952.70 for the apparatus and related equipment.** The new unit will be stationed at Hall 11 located at 12863 60th Avenue. (Boundry Park).

The original tender for the Quints was awarded on October 12, 2000 and made provision for the purchase of future units of the same style, make and manufacturer within the original tender. Therefore we have been advised by purchasing that the original award of tender is still in effect and we be proceeding with a direct purchase on this premise from Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. of Snyder Nebraska The original manufactures considered were;

- Ferrara Fire Engines of Louisiana for a Ferrara Inferno Cab & Chassis with a single axle
- American Lafrance L.T.I. Freightliner of Surrey for an American Lafrance cab & Chassis
- Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. of Snyder Nebraska for a Spartan Gladiator Cab & Chassis

The tenders were opened on April 19, 2000 and evaluated. The tender offer from Ferrara Fire was rejected due to price. The tender offers from American Lafrance and Smeal Fire Apparatus were tendered to meet specifications. The tender offer from Smeal Fire Apparatus was low tender therefore the offer from American Lafrance L.T.I. Freightliner was rejected due to price.

The Smeal manufactured aerial ladder component has greater acceptance locally and is currently in use in several GVRD communities such as Vancouver, Burnaby, West Vancouver, Delta, Abbotsford, Port Coquitlam and Richmond. Besides the 75' Quint Units, several of the Municipalities referenced also have 100' Smeal Aerial Platforms in operation. In the lower mainland region today, Smeal has a combination of over 30 units in service that range in size from 55 to 100'.

This has in the first year of operation afforded us the opportunity to establish alliances for the exchange of information and shared parts inventories. Our user current experience has indicated that initial operator training; maintenance training and operating costs have been less onerous with the Smeal unit in comparison to the other units purchased in the past. This assessment is based on the actual field experience.

The direct staff training impacts to Surrey are has been minimal in as much as most staff that have been assigned to these units are already certified in either aerial operations and/or rescue applications. For those employees that do not have these certifications, training has been provided in-house at regularly scheduled training sessions. Aerial Ladder and/or Rescue certified training sessions are an on-going part of our training initiatives required to accommodate staff changes and roster adjustments for vacation relief and promotional opportunities that must continue to be met, the cost implications of providing this training are minimal.

All student time is in service/on duty. Irrespective of purchasing this unit, costs for our instructors to provide annual training for staff who would be assigned to aerial ladder and rescue equipped apparatus is still required. Training of our mechanical staff was provided in the previous purchase and therefore is a non-issue.

Also, in discussion with my counterpart for the City of Toronto, he has confirmed a long- term commitment to the Quint program with their first order just recently placed with Smeal for 6 – 75' Quints and 2 – 100' aerial platforms.

DISCUSSION

The acquisition of Quintuple (Quints) combination apparatus has demonstrated a new direction for the Surrey Fire Service. These Quints have proven to be very versatile, giving the department a pumper, ladder and rescue combination at approximately half the cost of purchasing separate pumper ladder truck and rescue; therefore offering our City better utilization of the fire fighting work forces.

The Quint units are multi-functional, staffed with four persons that are capable of providing immediate intervention at any emergency incident whether it is a medical/rescue, aerial ladder response or of a fire ground related emergency. All apparatus are equipped with a 75' aerial, fixed waterway with automatic nozzle, full complement of ground ladders, 500 imperial gallon water tank, 1500 GPM fire pump, 800' of 2.5 inch hose, 1000' – 5 inch hose, three pre-connect attack lines, 25 imperial gallon class A foam concentrate, rescue equipment consisting of cutter, spreader (Jaws of life), smoke fan, power saw, 6000 watt generator, flood lights and medical equipment. These units are designed for proactive, offensive firefighting and emergency operations in a first responder capacity.

Quint apparatus have been utilized in the Fire Services throughout North America for decades and have proven their versatility in many cities. The Quint concept, however, has been slow in uptake because they deviate dramatically from the traditional model of delivery of first responders to an emergency incident. This is changing very quickly with some cities adopting a 100% Quint deployment philosophy. With Surrey's large geographic area, a smaller percentage within the fleet would be more practical with the first units has been placed in the city's core areas where call volumes are the highest, and the demographics of the community support the need for this type of service.

The Quint concept has been positively received by our work force.

The placement of this additional unit is strategic within our community that will significantly reduce the need of units being assigned from a further distance because of the variety of specialized equipment carried on board this Quint. They will not, however, reduce the number of firefighters and apparatus required to assemble in order to deal safely and appropriately with a major or significant emergency event. Firefighter resources are a critical link to public and firefighter safety and the successful outcome of an emergency incident.

The acquisition of this Quint will facilitate relocation of a rescue pumper that will be relocated to Cloverdale in July of 2004.

CONCLUSION:

The GM Finance, Technology & HR has reviewed the financial component and purchasing component of this report and confirms that funding is provided within the current budget year and the process is appropriate.

Len Garis
Fire Chief