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**MEETING TYPE:** Regular Council Meeting  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**AUTHOR:** [Sponsor]  
**DEPARTMENT:** Protective Services  
**ITEM TITLE:** Used Fire Apparatus Purchase:  
**DESCRIPTION:** Purchase of a used fire apparatus to help mitigate the current service level gap.

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## QUESTION

Does Council wish to authorize the immediate purchase of a used fire apparatus for \$575,000 to help mitigate the current service level gap created when four (4) legacy fire apparatus suffered major mechanical and electrical failures during the response to the Grouse Complex Wildfire.

## OPTIONS

- A. THAT staff be directed to purchase a used fire apparatus for \$575,000 to help mitigate the current service level gap;  
AND THAT the 2023 Financial Plan be amended to fund the \$575,000 from the General Fund Surplus
- B. THAT staff be directed to prepare a follow-up report with additional information for Council's consideration.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the response to the Grouse Complex Wildfire, the Lake Country Fire Department (LCFD) lost four (4) legacy fire apparatus to major mechanical and major electrical failures. This has left the LCFD Fleet in a deficit that directly impacts levels of service to the community. Staff have conducted a thorough assessment of the North American used and stock fire apparatus market. Staff identified a used fire apparatus that will help mitigate the current service level gap in a compressed timeframe. This unit fits the needs of the community, is in excellent condition, offers years of remaining service life, is reasonably priced, and is available for immediate sale.

## KEY INFORMATION

Two (2) of the broken-down legacy fire apparatus are over 28 years old and one (1) of the broken-down legacy fire apparatus is over 23 years old. The costs of repairs to these units are significantly higher than their current disposal sale values. Even if these units were repaired, they would continue to pose a significant risk of further mechanical and electrical failures. Based on district policy and industry standards these three (3) legacy fire apparatus are past due for renewal and replacement. Repairs are not sensible, and staff are recommending that these units be stripped of serviceable equipment and be sold for disposal.

One (1) of the broken-down fire apparatus has been repaired, however it suffered significant damage to its pump system. This unit is over 19-years old and will be placed in reserve status until it is replaced. If further repairs are required on this legacy fire apparatus, it may be permanently removed from service and sold for disposal.

## **DESIRED BENEFIT**

Staff have identified a used fire apparatus that will help quickly mitigate the current service level gap. This unit fits the needs of the community, is in excellent condition, offers years of remaining service life, is reasonably priced, and is available for immediate sale. This unit will be imported, inspected, and licensed by a reputable fire apparatus service dealer to ensure that it is fully compliant for use as an emergency vehicle within British Columbia and Canada. If Council approves this purchase, the used fire apparatus could be in-service with the LCFD in under two months.

## **STRATEGIC RELEVANCE AND COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**

While the current service level gap is the primary issue facing the LCFD in the wake of the Grouse Wildfire Complex, staff need to ensure that this purchase will align with the strategic direction of the LCFD Fleet. Staff have discussed levels of service and sustainability challenges facing the LCFD with Council at various times throughout 2022 and 2023. Based on these discussions, staff developed a twenty-five-year capital plan that fully informs the long-term renewal and replacement needs of LCFD. The purchase of the used fire apparatus is a fit with the twenty-five-year capital plan. This alignment ensures that financial resources are being strategically managed while delivering fire and rescue services to the District of Lake Country.

## **UNINTENDED OUTCOMES**

If Council does not approve the purchase of the used fire apparatus, staff will have to develop a subsequent report detailing the implications to the community. If the service level gap is not addressed, the community could see a reduction in fire and rescue services. Residents and businesses could see their fire insurance premiums increase if this situation is not corrected. It is important to note that current delivery time for new fire apparatus in North America is two to three years. The LCFD doesn't have the fleet capacity to maintain levels of service while waiting for new fire apparatus to arrive in 2026 or 2027.

## **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES**

Fire apparatus operated within British Columbia needs to meet or exceed several statutory requirements to be legally operated on roadways and highways. WorkSafe BC standards require employers to operate fire apparatus that are ergonomically designed and equipped with appropriate safety equipment to protect firefighters from injury. The Canadian Fire Underwriters Survey grades communities on their fire protection and this data informs insurance rates for approximately 80% of the national fire insurance industry. This grading system requires communities to operate a fleet of fire apparatus that manages the fire risk in their respective jurisdictions. Staff are confident that the used fire apparatus currently meets or can be modified to meet all applicable standards. As was mentioned above, this unit will be imported, inspected, and licensed by a reputable fire apparatus service provider to ensure that it is fully compliant for use as an emergency vehicle in British Columbia and Canada.

## **IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE OR MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Staff have discussed levels of service and sustainability challenges facing the LCFD with Council throughout 2022 and 2023. One of the issues identified by staff during their analysis of the LCFD fleet was, a general lack of versatility. Many LCFD fire apparatus are highly specialized for municipal firefighting or wildland firefighting, but few have the versatility required to operate effectively in the wildland urban interface. Staff are committed to ensuring that all future fire apparatus purchases produce units that are versatile and able to operate throughout the community.

## **IMPACT ON STAFF CAPACITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

If Council approves the purchase of the used fire apparatus, staff will be able to transfer existing fire equipment from the three (3) legacy fire apparatus being taken out of service onto other units. This will add unplanned workload to

staff workplans, but this issue must be addressed. This shift in workplans will delay several 2023 capital projects and these will be carried over for completion in 2024. The LCFD firefighter training calendar will be modified to ensure that staff receive appropriate training on the used fire apparatus.

Staff are asking Council to authorize \$575,000 for the purchase of the used fire apparatus which will be funded from the General Fund Surplus (\$2,578,529 as at December 31, 2022). Per Reserve Fund Policy 195, 2022 *“The District may also require emergency funds from time to time, from any one of its Unappropriated Surplus balances, for unforeseen costs. When this occurs, the District needs to rely upon sufficient balances being available in the applicable Unappropriated Surplus area (general operating, water or sewer).”* Staff do not yet have a recovery estimate for the response to the Grouse Wildfire Complex. A subsequent report will come to Council regarding this.

Respectfully Submitted,  
[Sponsor]

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Used Fire Apparatus Purchase.docx
Attachments:	- Used Fire Apparatus Purchase.pptx
Final Approval Date:	Aug 30, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Aug 28, 2023 - 11:25 AM**

**Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Aug 30, 2023 - 1:16 PM**

**Tanya Garost, Chief Administrative Officer - Aug 30, 2023 - 3:05 PM**