

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING MARCH 20, 2019

AUTHORED BY DAVID LABERGE, MANAGER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

SUBJECT PURCHASE OF NEW BYLAW DEPARTMENT FLEET VEHICLE

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To request an increase of \$36,000 in funding for the purchase of a 4x4 pickup truck fleet vehicle for the downtown bylaw enforcement unit.

Recommendation

That the Finance & Audit Committee recommend that Council approve increasing the budget from \$34,000 to \$70,000 to purchase a 4x4 pickup truck for the downtown bylaw enforcement unit and that additional funding will come from the General Capital reserve.

BACKGROUND

The Traffic & Engineering Department presented a business case for the Parking Strategy in the area around Nanaimo Regional General Hospital in the summer of 2018. The plan recommended an additional downtown parking-bylaw enforcement officer and an additional pickup truck fleet vehicle.

A pickup truck was identified as an appropriate vehicle, as the downtown bylaw enforcement team responds to homeless encampments and removes abandoned chattels from public spaces and parks on a daily basis. The fleet manager proposed that a small 2 wheel drive pickup could be purchased for \$34,000.

The new fleet department and bylaw managers have reviewed the business plan and proposed vehicle, and have determined that it is inadequate for the scope of work. The fleet manager has determined that a 2018 model bylaw truck built for municipal use with 4 wheel drive and converted to CNG (natural gas) would cost approximately \$70,000.

The additional cost is to provide for a ½ ton truck, which is necessary for load requirements. The City's greening commitment requires new vehicles to operate on CNG rather than gasoline, which requires additional engine conversion. The original estimates did not accurately calculate extra costs to install city radios, decaling, tool box, lighting, GPS, safety equipment and warranties.

The downtown bylaw enforcement unit will consist of six officers by the summer of 2019, and this truck will be one of two fleet vehicles at their disposal. The other vehicle is a license plate recognition equipped vehicle (LPR) which will operate continuously throughout the City. This pickup truck will be the only other vehicle at their disposal to provide services, move equipment

and respond to encampments. A two-wheel drive vehicle is not adequate to respond to the variety of open areas, parklands and off-road terrain in all seasons. This vehicle will be utilized daily for the next decade, and should be sized and equipped to the scope of the work which will be performed.

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance & Audit Committee recommend that Council approve increasing the budget from \$34,000 to \$70,000 to purchase a 4x4 pickup truck for the downtown bylaw enforcement unit and that additional funding will come from the General Capital reserve.
 - **Budget Implications:** The final 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan will be amended to increase the budget by \$36,000 to purchase a 4x4 pickup truck for the downtown bylaw enforcement unit and additional funding will come from the General Capital reserve.
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Hospital Area Parking Strategy business case recommending the addition of one downtown bylaw enforcement officer and a pickup truck was approved by Council.
- The business case proposed the purchase of a small pickup for \$34,000.
- The proposed vehicle and budget is inadequate for the scope of work which will be performed. The purchase of a CNG ½ ton 4 wheel drive pickup equipped for municipal service is recommended, at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

Submitted by:

David LaBerge
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Concurrence by:

Karen Fry
Director of Public Safety