

DATE OF MEETING MARCH 15, 2023

AUTHORED BY TIM DOYLE, FIRE CHIEF

**SUBJECT FRONT-LINE ENGINE PURCHASE FOR STATION #2 – FIRE RESCUE MASTER PLAN**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To advise Council that the budget for the purchase of a new front line Fire Engine to facilitate the addition of twenty new Firefighters at Station 2 in 2025 as part of the Fire Master Plan implementation has been increased by \$341,318 from \$1,224,300 to \$1,565,618 (additional \$141,050 in 2023 and \$200,268 in 2024) for the 2023 – 2027 Final Financial Plan funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

## **BACKGROUND**

In December 2022, Council adopted a motion to add 20 new firefighters effective August 2023 to strengthen Nanaimo Fire Rescue's ability to achieve a prompt and effective response to emergencies. This also included an increase to the budget for the planned Heavy Rescue Vehicle from \$1,157,500 to \$1,600,000 to include pumper capabilities funded from the Equipment Depreciation Reserve Fund. Additionally, Council also adopted a motion to add 20 new firefighters effective January 2025 and \$1,224,300 including outfitting for a front-line fire engine. The new engine was funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve.

## **DISCUSSION**

In January 2023, the City of Nanaimo (the City) awarded Commercial Emergency Equipment Company with the contract to supply Nanaimo Fire Rescue with a Fire Engine and Rescue Pumper to facilitate the implementation of Option #2 Staffing Rescue Pumper and Option #3 Staffing Front-line Engine as outlined the 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan in alignment with the Fire Master Plan. Concurrently, as part of the ten-year Fleet Replacement Plan, and due to extended industry delivery timelines, Commercial Emergency Equipment Company was awarded the contract to supply Nanaimo Fire Rescue with a new Ladder Truck in 2025. While the Rescue Pumper and Ladder Truck were awarded within budget, the front-line Fire Engine for Station 2 was over budget by an amount of \$341,318. Of this total, \$141,050 is needed in 2023 to fund the deposit required to place the vehicle order. The remaining \$200,268 will be needed in 2024 when the fire engine is delivered.

The information used to inform the original cost-estimate for the new front-line Fire Engine for Station 2 was based on market analysis and the cost of Fire Engines previously purchased by the City. However, the cost and time to build Fire Trucks has sharply increased. Market forces driving the cost of fire apparatus include: supply chain issues, inflation, increased demand, and new emissions standards. Peer Fire Departments that have recently purchased front-line Fire Engines

or are currently in the market for new Fire Engines such as: Vancouver, Saanich, and Delta are similarly experiencing increased costs and delivery times. |

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are sufficient funds in the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve to cover the increase and the revised projected 2024 closing balance is \$2,857,809. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- Council adopted a motion for 20 new firefighters effective January 2025 to staff a front-line Fire Engine at Station 2 as part of the implementation of the Fire Master Plan.
- Commercial Emergency Equipment Company was awarded the contract to supply a new front-line fire engine, rescue pumper and ladder truck to the City of Nanaimo
- The cost of the Fire Engine for Station 2 is over budget by the amount of \$341,318.
- The 2023 - 2027 Financial Plan has been updated for final to include an additional \$141,050 in 2023 and \$200,268 in 2024 funded from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve Fund.

#### **Submitted by:**

Tim Doyle  
Fire Chief |

#### **Concurrence by:**

Jake Rudolph  
Chief Administrative Officer

Laura Mercer  
Director, Finance |