

STAFF REPORT

Department: Public Works

Date: February 23, 2024

Item: PW Pick-Up Truck Replacement 2024

Recommendation: Be It Resolved That: The Corporate Services Committee Recommend that Council approve the replacement of Public Works' 2015 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pick-up truck prior to approval of the 2024 Municipal budget.

Background: The truck being proposed for replacement was purchased new in 2015 for \$29,150 plus tax. It is an extended cab "1/2 Ton", 4 x 4 truck and currently has 165,000kms. It is the designated Maintenance Leader's truck and has experienced higher mileage in comparison to the rest of the fleet as it performs all summer and winter patrols as well as daily site visits. It has undergone standard maintenance over its lifespan with the largest repair being a minor paint job in 2022 to slow the progression of rust (rocker panels and fenders). The engine expired on Monday February 12, 2024 due to a crankshaft failure. Another lingering issue with this truck is a shuttering and hard-shifting transmission.

In 2022, we forecasted that this truck would be replaced in 2026 due to its projected mileage. We extended the life of this truck by 1 year in 2023 due to the paint job performed the previous year (replace truck in 2027). The basis for recommending replacement now is the current engine failure combined with the potential transmission failure. The up-to-date "Equipment Replacement Forecast" is attached to this report for information.

Analysis:

PW Truck Fleet and Usage

The department currently maintains a fleet of 8 pick-up trucks. In the spring/summer months it is common to run short of trucks with the diversity of services the department provides for the community. In the winter months the demand for pick-up trucks is less as employees perform winter maintenance tasks on other PWD equipment.

In the spring/summer months the following positions require a truck every day:

1 – Maintenance Leader (1 employee)

2 – Parks/fields program (1 employee and 4 students from May to end of August)

3 – Public Works student crew (1 employee and 4 students from May to end of August)

The following are tasks that require pick-up trucks on a regular basis in the spring/summer/fall months:

4 – Line Painting (almost daily - 1 employee and 1 student)

5 – Beautification Maintenance (Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 1 employee)

6 – Water & Sewer Maintenance (weekly sanitary sewer checks, water distribution tests, complaint investigation, system repairs etc. – 1 employee)

7 – Pothole Patching (1 employee on side roads, additional employee with sign truck on Centre St/Hwy 6)

8 – OTHER. This could be a catch basin/manhole maintenance crew, cemetery burial crew, out-building maintenance/construction crew, tree-cutting/brushing, sanitary or storm sewer flushing assistance etc.

We try to schedule work to avoid truck shortfalls, but it is common for unplanned priority tasks to come up at the last minute (eg. water complaint, tree fall on a road, washout, sign repair, inter-departmental task etc.). Another major issue that causes truck shortfalls are breakdowns. Taking 1 or 2 trucks out of the fleet for repairs results in the Department struggling to keep up with the basic priorities.

Repair/Replacement Options & Costing

1 - Replacing the engine with a used one from a wrecker with over 100,000kms was the cheapest option at \$6,200 plus tax. 90 day warranty.

2 - Rebuilding the engine would be in the \$8,500 area plus HST for the parts. No warranty

3 - Replacing the engine with new would be \$10,000 plus HST. 1 year warranty.

All 3 options would utilize PW's mechanics to perform all labour "in-house". PW's mechanics contacted a Sudbury area transmission repair shop to check on their experience with the transmission that is in this truck as it has the shuttering and hard-shifting issues. The advice received was that the transmission in this truck commonly fails prematurely as well. The common sign that a failure is imminent is gear shuttering (quickly shifting back-and-forth between gears at shift points). Repairing the engine failure could be followed quickly by a transmission failure that is estimated at \$6,000 to repair.

4 - Replacing the truck with a similar new model will cost approximately \$60,500 plus HST (\$61,565.00 including our portion of the HST). Unfortunately, vehicle prices have skyrocketed since the purchase of this truck back in 2015. The department will procure 3 quotations from local vehicle dealers as per Procurement Policy F17-01325.



Summary

This truck is critical to our operation on a daily basis throughout the year and its reliability is paramount. Repairing this truck is not likely to extend its useful life by more than 1 - 3 years due to the likelihood of the transmission failing afterwards. It is the opinion of the department that spending any money to repair the engine at this point is a bad investment and the truck should be replaced instead.

It is very important to have its replacement delivered by mid-April, prior to summer student arrival and commencement of the various spring/summer maintenance activities. For this reason, the department is requesting permission to proceed with the procurement process now in order to minimize the truck shortfall.

Existing Policy: Procurement of Goods Policy F17-01325, Request for Quotation.

Strategic Goal: Goal 6 – Effective Municipal Governance and Operations.

Financial Commitment: \$62,000 including our portion of HST.

Budgeted: Yes No

Implementation: Send RFQ's to 3 local vehicle dealers upon Council approval.
Order truck once bids are received and hope for delivery by mid-April 2024.

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CAO/Clerk: Joseph Burke

Approval of Recommendation: Yes No

Comments: