SUBJECT: Donating Used Ambulances to Not-for-profit Organizations (HES09005) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the donation of a used ambulance, in “as is condition”, to St. John’s Ambulance, be approved.

(b) That the donation of a used ambulance in, “as is condition”, to the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), be approved.

(c) That the donation of a used ambulance in, “as is condition”, to the Hamilton Beach Rescue, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Hamilton Emergency Services – Emergency Medical Services (HES-EMS) has been approached by three (3) not-for-profit agencies requesting a donation of a used ambulance, which would otherwise be sold off ‘as is’, given that the vehicle has served its full life cycle of front-line service within EMS. The combined estimated value of the three (3) ambulances is $17,000 (see table below).
The agencies that are seeking the donation of a vehicle are St. John’s Ambulance, the SPCA, and Hamilton Beach Rescue (attached as Appendix A to Report HES09005).

All three (3) agencies provide valuable contributions to our community. The vehicles will enhance the agencies’ operational sustainability and ability to continue to make such contributions to the public. Staff recommends the donation of the three (3) vehicles to these organizations.

BACKGROUND:

EMS operates all of its front-line ambulances for six (6) years. This life cycle has been chosen, based on experience and monitoring the costs of on-going repairs as the vehicles age. At the end of the vehicle’s life cycle, it is sold first in-house if there is an interested department / division; and, then to the public at large following the City of Hamilton’s (City) disposal policies. Common practice across the province, for an ambulance vehicle life-cycle, is an average of four (4) years. HES can extend the life cycle because we employ a proactive preventative maintenance program.

EMS recently acquired nine (9) new ambulances and is now in a position to dispose of the nine (9) vehicles that are no longer used for active service. The remaining six (6) ambulances will be sold following the appropriate City policies.

Three (3) not-for-profit agencies that provide important public services have requested that the City donate one (1) used ambulance to each agency. It is their intention to convert the vehicles to match their intended purpose.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Each of the three (3) ambulances being recommended to be donated has over 250,000 kilometres and is at, or over the sixth (6th) year of service.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Should Council not support staff’s recommendation to donate the three (3) vehicles, staff will sell the ambulances in accordance with the City’s disposal of surplus goods policies.
FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Based on the experience of selling ambulances in like condition in 2008, EMS estimates that the City would obtain a maximum of $6,500 for each of two (2) vehicles, and $5,000 for one (1) for a total of $17,000 (all to be sold ‘as is”).

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

Purchasing Policy #16 – Policy for Disposal of Surplus Goods, Section 4.16 states that the disposal of surplus and obsolete equipment shall be evaluated on a case by case basis and that one of the options outlined in this policy includes that the surplus good may be donated to a non-profit agency.

Therefore, the recommendations contained in Report HES09005 are consistent with the Purchasing Policy.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Hamilton Emergency Services, Mechanical Section

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, and economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

- Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Partnerships are promoted.

- Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Waste is reduced and recycled.

- Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
  Investment in Hamilton is enhanced and supported.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?  ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?  ☑ Yes ☐ No
Mr. Brent Browett  
Director, EMS  
Hamilton Emergency Services  
City of Hamilton

Dear Mr. Brent Browett,

**RE: Ambulance donation**

St John Ambulance Hamilton Branch is a charitable organization that has proudly served and trained our community of Hamilton for almost 100 years.

On behalf the St. John Ambulance Board of Directors for the Hamilton Branch, thank you for considering our request to receive one of your surplus ambulance units that you are in the process of replacing.

This much needed ambulance unit would greatly assist our volunteer community services brigade which presently requires one more ambulance unit to bring our fleet back up to three vehicles. As you may be aware, we require this unit to help cover and support more that 360 community special events throughout the year.

We are also in the process of developing a long-term vehicle replacement strategy for our organization and this contribution would greatly enhance this plan and our overall community services program.

Thank you again for your consideration regarding this important donation request.

Kevin Keith  
Hamilton Branch Manager  
St. John Ambulance  
kevin.keith@on.sja.ca  
www.sja.ca
June 9, 2009

Brent Browett, Director, EMS  
Hamilton Emergency Services  
City of Hamilton

Dear Mr. Browett;

The Hamilton/Burlington SPCA is responsible for the protection of animals in distress and for investigation and enforcement of animal cruelty offences under the Ontario SPCA Act and Criminal Code of Canada. Our uniformed officers are considered Peace Officers under provincial legislation. In addition we provide various emergency services to animal owners who may not have the ability to transport their own animals to a veterinarian in emergency situations.

The donation of an used ambulance vehicle to our organization would greatly assist us in the delivery of these services and in ensuring the welfare of Hamilton’s Animals.

The SPCA is fortunate to have a member of City Council on our Board of Directors. Currently our Council representative is Counselor Robert Pasuta, and previous to Counselor Pasuta, Counselor Tom Jackson had a long history representing the City of Hamilton on our Board.

If you require and additional information from us, please contact me at (905) 574-7722 ext. 310 (or my assistant at ext. 350).

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Jim Sykes  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hamilton/Burlington SPCA and  
TEAD-Equestrian Association for the Disabled

cc: Ken Leendertse, Robert Pasuta
Mr. Brent Browett  
Director  
Hamilton Emergency Services EMS

Brent, in regards to the Ambulances that you are taking out of service, the Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit would like you to consider donating one of them to us.

We would like to set up this vehicle as a second unit that could launch our vessels as well as be prepared and ready to perform Ice Rescues as required throughout the winter season.

Sincerely
Mark Dean  
Deputy Chief  
Hamilton Beach Rescue Unit