RECOMMENDATION

That the Ford Expedition Max Special Services Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) 4X4 vehicle, manufactured by the Ford Motor Company, be approved as the City’s standard for the Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire, emergency response support vehicles and that this standard be for a period of four (4) years (2009 through to 2012).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report proposes and seeks approval for fixed term “manufacturer’s standard” for Ford Expedition Max Special Services SUV 4X4 vehicles used by Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire (HES-Fire).

The proposed manufacturer’s standardization is in accordance with Purchasing Policy #14 - Policy for Standardization, and will provide the Department with a vehicle that will meet operational requirements and improve operational efficiencies.

These four (4) emergency support vehicles are being replaced as part of the regular scheduled replacement program as defined by the six (6) year life cycle plan. These vehicles have been extended due to the Department’s proactive preventative maintenance program.
A committee comprised of operational and support staff reviewed the operational requirements that a vehicle must have to be effective and efficient while performing in the role.

A review was completed of the special emergency response service vehicles and matched to the Departmental vehicle requirements. At the conclusion of this process, staff recommended that the Ford Expedition Max Special Services SUV 4X4 vehicle would best meet the operational and health and safety requirements. This is currently the same vehicle model used by Emergency Medical Services and Hamilton Police Services Supervisors.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the Province of Ontario, municipal emergency services have the ability to take advantage of purchasing the same vehicles that has been identified on the Ontario Police Coop Purchasing Group. This group works with the major automotive manufacturers to develop a listing of vehicles that will be produced for the purpose of emergency response (Special Service Vehicles). This listing covers both cars and SUV type vehicles. The benefit of this is that the vehicles are manufactured at a basic (no frills) level, with heavy duty suspension, transmissions, breaking systems and electrical systems. The vehicles are also manufactured to be outfitted with the necessary emergency communications equipment, lighting and siren packages. Municipal emergency services are also able to take advantage of the provincial fleet pricing that the Police Coop Purchasing Group has negotiated.

As per the current vehicle replacement schedule, HES is required to replace the four (4) special service 4X4 SUVs that are in service as District Chief vehicles. These vehicles are used by the District Chiefs to transport equipment and personnel to and from emergency scenes and act as their mobile command centres across the entire city.

A staff committee comprised of District Chiefs, Senior Management and Mechanical staff was assembled to review the operational and health and safety requirements of the vehicles, which are required to perform the function, and to evaluate the available special services vehicles. The Ford Expedition Max Special Services SUV 4X4 vehicle was determined to best meet both the operational and health and safety requirements. The approximate cost per vehicle will be $39,000.

The proposed manufacturer standardization is in accordance with Section 4.14 of the Purchasing Policy – Policy #14 – Policy for Standardization.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

Purchasing Policy #14 – Policy for Standardization, Section 4.14, sub section (1) allows for a management decision making process to select a Good and/or Service that meets common needs or requirements.
Purchasing and maintaining one (1) make and model of vehicle in this capacity will provide professional commercial quality reliable equipment to front-line staff. This will allow for continuity and consistency of training and interoperability.

Standardization also allows for the reduced stock levels of spare parts.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The City of Hamilton (City) purchases the lowest priced equipment tendered regardless of specific brand requirements. Staff does not recommend this as it will result in the City being required to purchase non end user supported/recommended equipment that may lead to operational issues, end user dissatisfaction, compatibility issues and health and safety concerns.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial, staffing or legal implications.

Full funding is provided for these emergency support vehicles through the Vehicle Capital Reserves.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

Purchasing Policy #14 – Policy for Standardization states that standardization is a management decision-making process that examines a specific common need or requirement and allows the Client Department(s) to select a Good and/or Service that best fills that need to become a standard.

The establishment of the Ford Expedition Max Special Services SUV 4X4 vehicle as the standard will result in a single source purchase, and this purchase shall be approved by the Manager of Purchasing and Council.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

Corporate Services Department, Finance Division, Purchasing Section
Hamilton Emergency Services, Fire Division, Administration Section
Hamilton Emergency Services, Fire Division, Suppression Section
Hamilton Emergency Services, Fire Division, 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
Public services and programs are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes  □ No
Human health and safety are protected.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced.  ☑ Yes  □ No
A skilled, innovative and diverse workforce is attracted and retained.

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