SUBJECT: Donation of Decommissioned Vehicle to the Box 43 Association (HES06006) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That Hamilton Emergency Services (HES) be permitted to donate the decommissioned, 1995 Chevrolet Suburban – City Fleet No. 442351 / VIN: 1GKGC26KRJ746312, with an estimated wholesale value of $3,500, to the Box 43 Association (Box 43); in order to assist them with their ability to support on-scene emergency responders, at major emergencies, throughout the City.

(b) That the vehicle be donated “as is” to Box 43 in lieu of payment for services provided to HES at emergency scenes, as per the black book value; taking into account the condition of the vehicle.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The above noted vehicle has been fully depreciated and is no longer being utilized, by HES, as a response vehicle and would be sold off in auto auction.

Due to the removal of emergency equipment (i.e. emergency lighting, siren, mobile two-way radio, etc.) this vehicle’s interior and exterior is marked with several holes in addition to the interior being well worn; thus significantly reducing the re-sale value.
HES would receive services in-kind that match the value of the donated vehicle; in essence a cost neutral transaction.

Box 43 has expressed an interest in trying to improve their response to emergencies. A second vehicle would allow them the ability to respond to multiple incidents, carry more equipment and supplies to the scene, and/or re-stock during long duration incidents. Currently these tasks must be performed in their personal vehicles.

BACKGROUND:

The Box 43 Association is a non-profit, volunteer association, which responds to major emergencies throughout the City (e.g. multiple alarm fires, electrical blackouts, tornados, etc.) to provide refreshments to working crews at the scene.

Founded in 1950 to serve refreshments to Firefighters at multiple alarm fires, Box 43 takes its name from the alarm box that sat at the old Central Fire Hall on Hughson Street. It was patterned after the Montreal Auxiliary Firefighters.

Initially, these volunteers served coffee and drinks out of the trunks of their cars. As time progressed a homemade trailer was built, which was later replaced with various vehicles throughout the years. Their current vehicle, a 1992 Ford Cube Van is equipped with a refrigerator, stove, microwave and a built-in 35-gallon water tank. The van is also equipped with communications that include a cell phone, scanner and an HES Department trunk radio. The monies used to purchase this unit were from various fund raising activities such as running Bingo games and other events within the City.

Once notified by the HES-Communications via pager, these volunteers respond to all areas of the City for fire and police emergencies. In addition to their response to emergencies, they also play a key role in preserving the history of the fire service in the City of Hamilton. In 1978, the Box 43 Association restored the Hamilton Fire Department’s (HFD) 1843 Hand-drawn Pumper and later that year the Association obtained and began restoring the HFD’s 1926 Bickle-Airens-Fox Pumper, which was completed in 1981. Since that time, they have continued their efforts and acquired and/or restored other antique fire apparatus.

In 1999, they purchased their own building at 75 Elgin Street in Hamilton, which is used as a base from which to operate their canteen and to store some of the antique fire apparatus that they have restored. Box 43 participates in the annual Emergency Preparedness Day displays and operates the 1926 Bickle-Airens-Fox Pumper in the annual Santa Claus Parade, as well as being available for special events as required.
ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

This donation would provide a greater depth of resources for Box 43; thus enhancing the services provided to emergency responders throughout the City.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

Due to the condition of the decommissioned vehicle, it can be disposed of through normal procedures with minimal financial return to the City.

HES could continue to compensate Box 43 for the refreshments it consumes.

Box 43 would remain limited to responding to a single incident at a time.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial:

The lack of revenue, from the sale of this vehicle, would be offset by HES not having to pay Box 43 for the equivalent value in products and services that it receives. The vehicle would be donated on an “as is” basis.

Staffing:

There are no staffing implications associated with the recommendations contained in Report HES06006.

Legal:

There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations contained in Report HES06006.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

There are no City policies affected by the recommendations contained in Report HES06006.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

Corporate Services Department, Purchasing Section
Corporate Services Department, Budgets and Finance Division
City Manager’s Office, Legal Services Division
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
Emergency Service providers are supplied with refreshments in a timely manner; which furnishes them the energy to better concentrate and maintain stamina required to manage a lengthy emergency situation; thus assisting in the protection of the public.

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

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. □ Yes ☑ No

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
Emergency Services Providers are better taken care of during lengthy emergency situations.