



City Council Committee Report

Date: 14 February 2011

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager, City of Kenora
Fire and Emergency Services**

Re: Aerial Ladder Replacement-Capital Budget 2011

Recommendation: That Council hereby approves the acquisition of a used Aerial Ladder as supplied by The Oakville Fire Department, with total costs for purchase, including any required retrofit and transportation to the City of Kenora, not to exceed the amount of \$80,000.00, net of impact of applicable taxes; and further

That Council hereby provides direction to staff to include this item in the City's 2011 Capital Budget, to be funded through the City's Fire Equipment Reserve.

Background: The City of Kenora is approximately 260 square kilometers or 23,524 hectares. Sixty percent or 14,115 hectares of this land mass is covered by forested lands or other forms of vegetation. The City's Fire Service is responsible for protecting this area with eight Fire Pumpers, one Rescue truck, one Marine unit and one Aerial Ladder truck.

Following the amalgamation of the City, the Fire Service did a consolidation and rationalization of its fire vehicles, resulting in a reduction of the total vehicles in the fleet for this purpose. As part of this process, an apparatus consolidation and replacement plan was developed, a copy of which is attached for your reference. The general standard used by many municipalities is a rotation of fire apparatus based on a 15 year life cycle, recognizing that this is also dependent on the condition of the equipment. The City of Kenora adopted a 25 year life cycle for its fire apparatus.

The Aerial Ladder truck is a device used to provide "live saving rescues" for any buildings that exceed two storey's and further to provide a means to establish a "master stream" for any structures that exceed two storey's. Examples include Benedickson Court, Birchwood Terrace, the Head Waters Condominium development and any structure in the core of downtown Kenora or Keewatin.

The Aerial Ladder truck as noted above was delivered to the Kenora Fire Department in 1978 and is now 33 years old. The Aerial Ladder truck has been identified both as a Corporate issue since year 2000 and included in the Capital Budget since year 2000 for replacement. Historically the replacement of the Aerial Ladder truck has been deferred because the apparatus floor at "old Station One" was too small to accommodate the size of a new Aerial Ladder and

further because of cost the Aerial Ladder truck project was set aside for long term debt financing consideration.

The 1978 Aerial Ladder truck has been out of service since the 12th of January 2011. Estimated cost to repair the Aerial Ladder truck is \$10,000.00.

It is this writer's opinion that the City is at risk and is exposed as we do not have the capacity to provide "live saving rescues" for any buildings that exceed two storey's and further to provide a means to establish a "master stream" for any structures that exceed two storey's.

Given the present economic climate in the City of Kenora, this writer has sourced a used 75' Aerial Ladder (1995) owned by the Oakville Fire Department. Please see Fleet Supervisor Mike Mostow's report regarding this asset. As the City's replacement plan is based on a 25 year life cycle, this device would provide the City of Kenora with ten years of service before being considered for replacement. During this period the Fire Service apparatus reserve would be better positioned to replace fire apparatus on a forward basis.

Budget: The 2011 Draft Capital Budget includes the acquisition of the Aerial Ladder truck in the amount of \$80,000.00 to be funded from the City's Fire Equipment Reserve.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Municipal Memo, Portal, and Media.