

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF FIRST RESPONSE SUPERVISOR/INCIDENT
COMMAND VEHICLES**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$363,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) for the purchase of three (3) 4x4 Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) as Road Supervisor Vehicles suitable for use as interim Incident Command and Enhanced Response Vehicles.

REPORT

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its meeting held on 2008 September 16, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council's approval for the use of Gaming Funds for the purchase of First Response Supervisor/Incident Command Vehicles.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Begin
Member

<p>Copy: City Manager Director Finance OIC, RCMP</p>
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2008 September 09

FROM: OPERATIONS OFFICER
RCMP

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF FIRST RESPONSE SUPERVISOR/INCIDENT
COMMAND VEHICLES

PURPOSE: To request Council approval for the use of Gaming Funds for the purchase of
First Response Supervisor/Incident Command Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$363,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) for the purchase of three (3) 4x4 Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) as Road Supervisor Vehicles suitable for use as interim Incident Command and Enhanced Response Vehicles.

REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A need has been identified to acquire a total of three (3) Supervisor/Incident Command Vehicles in order to equip senior RCMP Road Supervisors with enhanced mobility and emergency response capability, including:

- Provide Incident Command support at serious incidents prior to the arrival of the Mobile Command Vehicle (“MCV”), or in circumstances where the MCV is unavailable or unable to access the affected area;
- Provide support and interoperability to a unified or wide area command structure in response to a cataclysmic event where location and evacuation of victims is required or Search and Rescue assistance is requested;
- Provide a platform for early deployment of equipment normally stored at the Detachment; and

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- Allow for continued high priority response during snow emergencies (current fleet is significantly hindered during events such as this).

2.0 BUSINESS CASE

The proposed vehicle assets consist of three (3) four wheel drive (4x4) Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) containing a wide array of specialized equipment and for use by General Duty Road Supervisors and the RCMP Emergency/Event Planning NCO. The vehicles will be deployed full time as a First Response Supervisors' vehicles, with the additional roles of operational support and initial command post at emergency incidents. The total cost for the three vehicles is \$363,000 broken down as follows (per vehicle):

- \$50,000 Vehicle
- \$16,000 Emergency/Communications Equipment
- \$55,000 Specialized Equipment

3.0 BACKGROUND

The members of Burnaby Detachment operate in a challenging urban environment. The scope and breadth of the calls members respond to range from the mundane to the extremely hazardous. Further, Burnaby is home to two major post secondary institutions and some of the largest high schools in the Province. Burnaby also is home to tank farms, refineries, three large shopping malls and a growing number of social service institutions such as the Burnaby Center for Mental Health and Addiction. Each of these institutions present their own challenges and issues. In some cases a major incident may involve the immediate tactical evacuation of large numbers of residents. Emergencies at other institutions, such as schools and malls, may involve the deployment of police resources both in an evacuation role as well as an aggressive response to an elusive egregious human threat where a suspect may have to be quickly located and dealt with. Immediate access to floor plans, maps, and enhanced force options would be critical. Similarly, urgent tactical evacuation of citizens, particularly from residences over a large area, require access to maps and other evacuation tools not carried in standard police cars.

The current Burnaby Detachment General Duty police vehicle fleet consists of Ford Crown Victoria rear wheel drive cars. Although winter tires and chains are installed, these vehicles are often incapable of operating in medium or heavy snow conditions. Further, the City of Burnaby includes several higher altitude areas which experience snowfall more frequently and have steeper roadways. These conditions often present almost insurmountable mobility challenges when responding to high priority calls. Four wheel drive vehicles are, occasionally, the only reliable means of moving about the municipality in severe weather conditions.

In the event of a cataclysmic incident such as earthquake or other natural disaster, police are among the first on the scene and, together with other emergency service personnel, are engaged in protection of life as a first priority. In a wide spread event where role specific emergency responders are overwhelmed, police will be called upon to engage in life saving operations

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normally undertaken by fire or ambulance. The early deployment of equipment such as thermal imaging devices (to detect heat sources indicating trapped survivors in a collapsed building or concealed fires), self contained breathing apparatus, and cardiac defibrillators will save lives.

Thermal imaging also plays a role in Search and Rescue, location of concealed suspects, and identification of potentially hazardous activities such as clandestine laboratories and grow operations.

Burnaby RCMP, Fire and Ambulance utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) which is the accepted standard for managing serious/major incidents. Currently, Burnaby RCMP Road Supervisors are all trained to the ICS 300 level to ensure our interoperability with Fire and Ambulance is maximized. Burnaby Detachment has already been applying the ICS planning model to large events and will be increasingly applying the ICS principles when responding to multi-agency incidents. There is a need to have equipment immediately available at incidents to ensure proper ICS methodologies are applied – this includes organizational charts, tasking documents and a host of other material commonly utilized by most emergency responders and not found in standard equipped police cars

Regrettably, the increased frequency and complex nature of hazardous material incidents (including synthesis/extraction laboratories as well as some marihuana grow operations) requires enhanced equipment often not immediately available to first responders.

The MCV at Burnaby Detachment is a custom equipped trailer frequently deployed to serious crime or incident locations well after the initial emergency responders arrive on scene. This resource is specifically designed to serve as an Incident Command Post where police officers and/or emergency personnel will be at a scene for hours, days or weeks. Notwithstanding, there is a need to have incident command capability and access to enhanced operational equipment immediately on location at a critical incident.

4.0 PROPOSED SOLUTION

The purchase of three (3) specially equipped Chevrolet Suburban 2500 4x4 or GMC Yukon XL 2500 4X4 trucks will meet the challenges set out in the previous paragraphs. These vehicles would be marked with standard RCMP logos and additional City of Burnaby “First Response Emergency Command” signage. They would be operated exclusively by Road Supervisors with the requisite training necessary to utilize the equipment carried on board. The proposed vehicles are 250/2500 (or 3/4 ton trucks) with a payload limit of 1,031 kilograms capable of transporting specialized equipment including, but not limited to:

- Roof Mounted (Fixed) and Portable Thermal Imaging Devices
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- Cardiac Defibrillator & First Aid
- Enhanced Force Options
- Detailed Maps and High Resolution Aerial Photos of Burnaby

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Floor Plans of High Risk Institutions
Crime Scene Containment Equipment
Still/Video Cameras
Police/Fire/Ambulance/Public Works Interoperable Communication Devices
Extra Police Portable Radios
Safety Equipment
Entry Tools

5.0 CONCLUSION

The purchase of three (3) customized, properly equipped, 4x4 Emergency Response Vehicles addresses a current gap in police response and will reasonably meet anticipated challenges in the event of a cataclysmic occurrence. The equipment and uses of these vehicles have been carefully considered and meet police needs and fall within RCMP policy. The configuration of the vehicles is designed to be interoperable with other Emergency Services such as Fire and Ambulance and can be deployed in both police and non-police controlled incidents. Finally, the deployment of these vehicles on the streets of Burnaby will increase police visibility, enhance response and, conceivably, save lives. Therefore, it is recommended that Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$363,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) for the purchase of three First Response Supervisor/Incident Command Vehicles.



B.D. (Brad) DESMARAIS, Inspector
Operations Officer
Burnaby Detachment

Attachment
BDD/nh

Copied to: City Manager
Director Finance