

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF ONE HIGH PROFILE PRISONER TRANSPORT
VEHICLE**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$90,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) to finance the purchase and equipping of a high profile prisoner transport van.

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 to acquire a high profile prisoner transport vehicle for use by the Burnaby RCMP.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Begin
Member

Copy: City Manager Director Finance OIC, RCMP

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2008 September 09

FROM: OPERATIONS OFFICER
RCMP

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF ONE HIGH PROFILE PRISONER TRANSPORT
VEHICLE

PURPOSE: To request Council approval for the use of Gaming Funds to acquire a high profile prisoner transport vehicle for use by the Burnaby RCMP.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$90,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) to finance the purchase and equipping of a high profile prisoner transport van.

REPORT

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Burnaby RCMP Detachment has identified a need to acquire and equip a large wide bodied prisoner van. This van will be used to transport high risk or large numbers of prisoners, and/or provide a high profile police presence as a deterrent at locations where large public disturbances can be reasonably anticipated.

Vehicles of this type are already in use with the Vancouver Police Department and the Surrey RCMP respectively with considerable success both as a prisoner transport and as a general deterrent at public order incidents. The vehicle would be classified as an emergency vehicle under the BCMVA and equipped with rooftop mounted lightbars and current reflective RCMP markings as well as enhanced signage. It would also be equipped with police radio and a mobile work station.

2.0 BUSINESS CASE

With Council approval of funding, Burnaby RCMP Detachment would purchase one new vehicular asset similar to a large bodied vehicle such as a Ford E450. This new asset will be rear wheel drive and will be for the intended use of transporting large numbers of prisoners, and high

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From: Operations Officer, RCMCP
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risk prisoners. The vehicle will be equipped with a custom built box mounted on the frame of the Ford E450 containing multiple compartments for prisoner transport (see photos attached)

The vehicle will be deployed on an as needed basis throughout the Burnaby RCMP Detachment. Once in service the four District Commanders will also ensure that it is written into Public Event Operational Plans (where appropriate).

Further, it is our intention to routinely deploy the vehicle on high call volume shifts, such as Friday and Saturday nights, when officer presence itself may be enough to defuse a large event and when large numbers of prisoners are typically transported. This vehicle will be big, loud, effectively marked and outfitted with emergency lights intended to project officer presence over a wide area.

3.0 BACKGROUND

The Burnaby RCMP Detachment currently has available a Ford Econoline panel van for prisoner transport. This vehicle is not marked and has subdued emergency lighting with a police radio. The cargo compartment of the van consists of large metal box with a door to the rear as a prisoner area. The prisoner area has two benches facing each other with no passenger restraints. The small windows are covered in plexiglass and the door is locked with a swing type bar and can be locked with a standard lock or pin of some sort. Given the large compartment style, the restrictive entry point as well as a number of other poor design features, the Burnaby RCMP no longer consistently uses this vehicle for transporting prisoners due to the increased risk of injury and liability. The current vehicle is used most frequently as a transport vehicle for large or contaminated exhibits.

The exploration of this project began with the Vancouver Police which lead to the Surrey RCMP Detachment. In 2001 the Surrey RCMP Detachment acquired a large vehicle with prisoner transport capabilities, from a local Surrey company which also provides prisoner transport vans to the Vancouver Police.

This vehicle is purchased as a truck cab and frame, it is then delivered to the local company, Intercontinental Truck Body, where a custom made body is assembled and attached to the truck's frame.

In calendar year 2007, the Burnaby RCMP transported or held approximately 2,700 prisoners. This year, to date, we are up approximately 300 prisoners over the same time last year. Accordingly, use of this asset is expected to be high.

4.0 PROPOSAL

The new asset will be deployed to large events, Friday and Saturday nights, and other nights with high call volume. It will be tasked with jurisdiction anywhere in the City of Burnaby particularly disturbance calls or loud party calls.

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The truck cost is approximately \$40 000 including tax for a Ford E450 158" Econoline Cut Away Truck and frame. The cost of the custom built body (prisoner box) will be \$50,000 including tax from Intercontinental Truck Body, for a total vehicle cost of \$90,000. It should be noted that the **Prisoner Box is transferable from vehicle to vehicle** and should be considered a one time purchase.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This vehicle will project officer presence to a much larger area, and will assist police in maintaining order in large crowd situations. At various large events it can be used as a temporary holding area while regular police vehicles shuttle prisoners to cells. On Friday and Saturday nights, when call volume is typically high, the prisoner transport vehicle will be deployed as a regular component of General Duty, taking calls and responding to disturbances. In the event of multiple arrests the prisoner transport vehicle will be utilized in order to keep police cars on the road rather than several units transporting individuals back to cells.

During a major incident members can temporarily secure exhibits, firearms or other prohibited devices inside the prisoner units at an Incident Command Post.

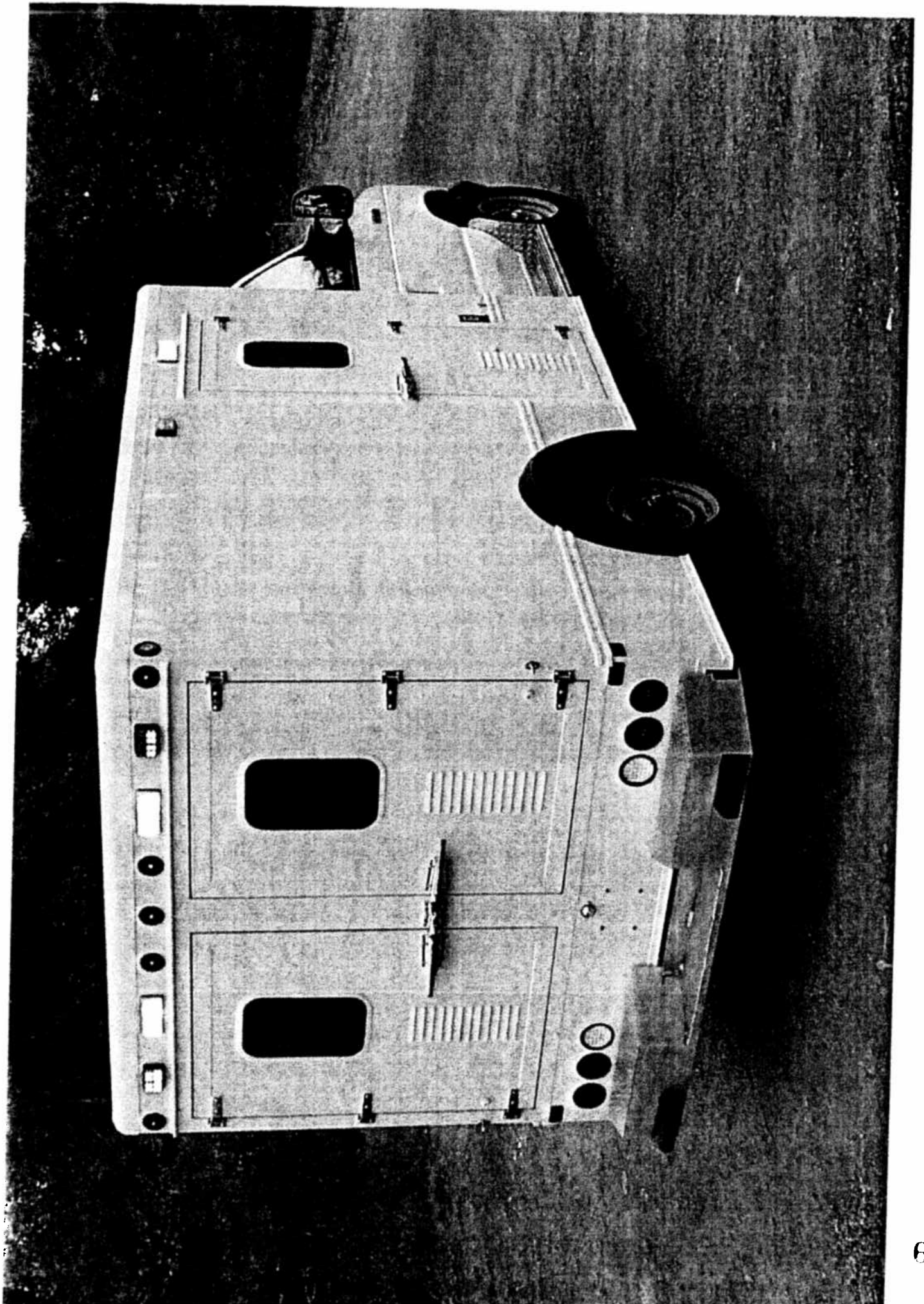
The most powerful argument for such a vehicle is deterrence. The experience of other municipalities that routinely dispatch such vehicles to public order incidents confirm that the sight of a professional, highly visible, prisoner transport vehicle is often enough to calm a situation down. When arrests are made, the wide access to prisoner compartments as well as separate accommodation whilst transporting arrestees all contribute to a safer arrest experience for the participants – police included. Therefore, it is recommended that Council approve the use of Gaming Funds in the amount of \$90,000 (inclusive of 5% GST) to finance the purchase and equipping of a high profile prisoner transport van.

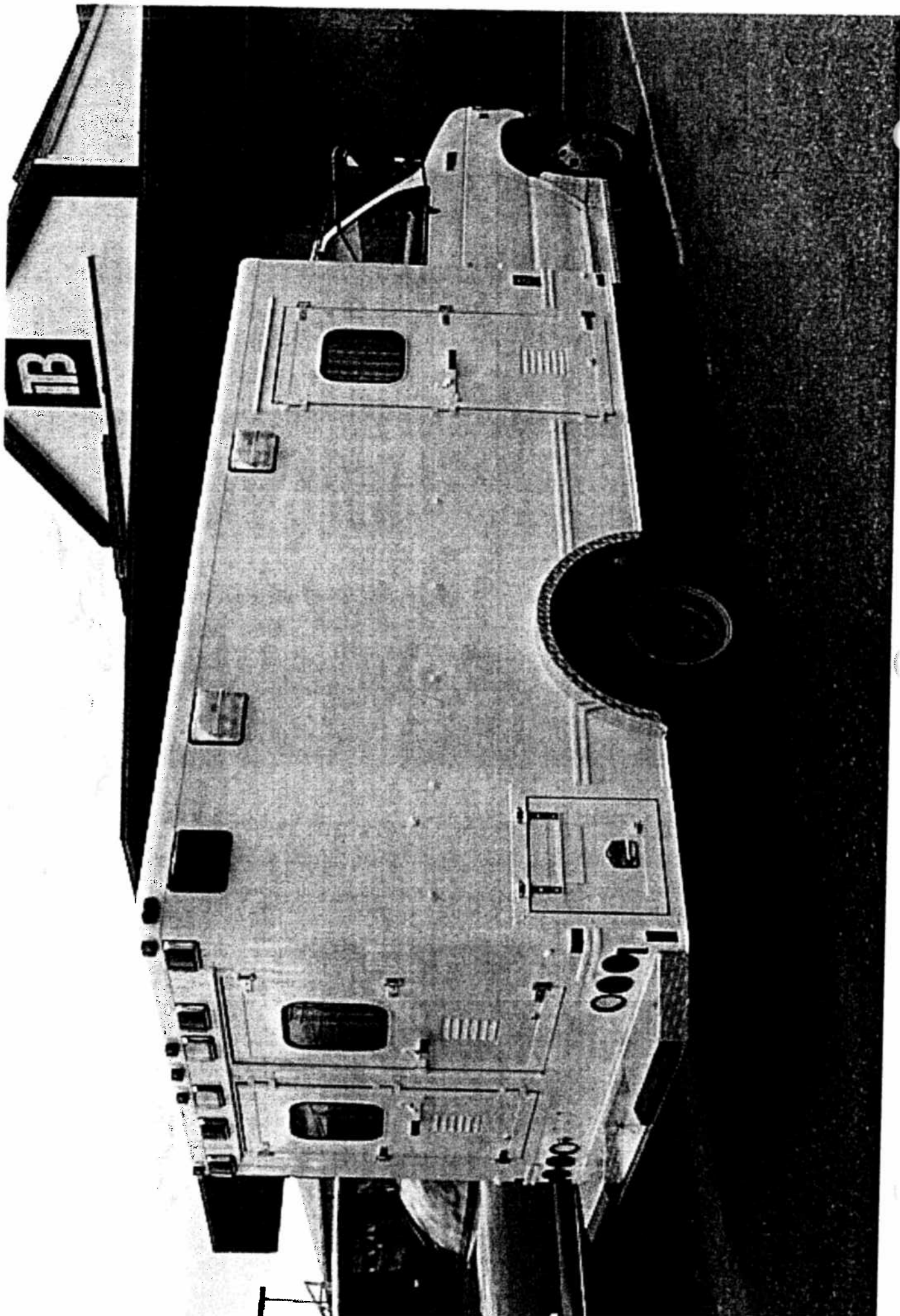


B.D. (Brad) DESMARAIS, Inspector
Operations Officer
Burnaby Detachment

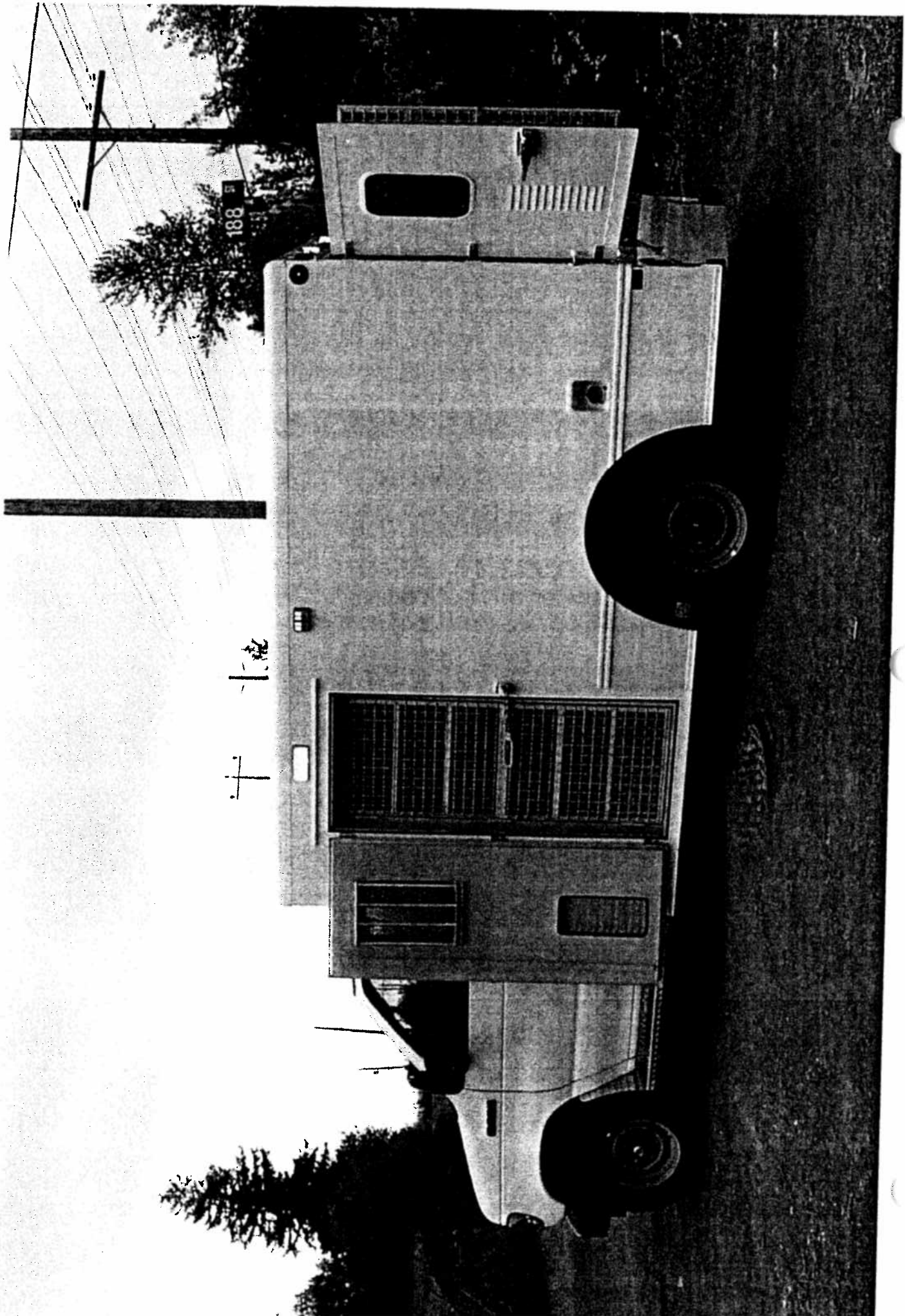
Attachment
BDD/nh

Copied to: City Manager
Director Finance









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