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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Health & Social Services Committee  
From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health  
Report: #2024-MOH-3  
Date: June 6, 2024

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**Subject:**

Command, Emergency Response, and Community Programs Vehicle Standardization and Upfitting

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**Recommendations:**

That the Health & Social Services Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Ford Explorer Interceptor be adopted as the standard vehicle for Region of Durham Paramedic Services (RDPS) Command, Emergency Response and Community Programs for a period of five (5) years, effective immediately; and
  - B) That a sole source agreement for the RDPS command and emergency response vehicle custom upfitting package be negotiated and awarded to Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. for a period of five (5) years, which is the only certified upfitter that meets the current Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard, Version 6.1.
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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to adopt the Ford Explorer Interceptor as the standard vehicle for RDPS Command, Emergency Response and Community Programs for a period of five (5) years, effective immediately.
- 1.2 Further, this report requests approval to adopt Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. as the standardized upfitter for RDPS command and emergency response vehicles (CERVs) by negotiating a five (5) year sole source agreement.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 All CERVs purchased for use by RDPS are upfitted by vendors that are certified by the Ministry of Health (MOH) as approved emergency response vehicle (ERV) upfitters, as required and listed on the MOH's [Ambulance & Emergency Response Vehicle Contractor Certification Listing](#). These approved vendors ensure that the vehicle upfit is compliant with Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard, Version 6.1. Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. is the only approved ERV upfitter vendor within a reasonable distance from RDPS.
- 2.2 Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. is an authorized agent for Ford and is involved in making original equipment manufacturer modifications to all Ford Explorer Interceptor vehicles. In addition, Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. is certified in accordance with the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards to ensure all original equipment manufacturer safety features are maintained during the upfitting process.
- 2.3 The current fleet of RDPS CERVs is comprised of GM Chevrolet Tahoes. Some of these Tahoes were purchased following Regional Council approval of recommendations in report [#2019-MOH-6](#). They were all standardized for the ease of access to lifesaving equipment.
- 2.4 The current model of GM Chevrolet Tahoe does not come with a hybrid option. However, the Ford Explorer Interceptor is available with a hybrid option.
- 2.5 To align with the Region's strategic goal of Environmental Sustainability, RDPS is recommending adopting the Ford Explorer Interceptor as the standard CERV, which does come in a hybrid configuration, combining gasoline engines with a battery.
- 2.6 Mechanical preventative maintenance and repair operations on all CERVs are primarily completed by the Region's Works Department, Maintenance Operations & Fleet Division, or as necessary by authorized local maintenance and repair facilities. RDPS will realize parts and repair services efficiencies and expertise through the deployment of a consistent conversion platform.
- 2.7 All Works Department and local community maintenance and repair facility personnel performing mechanical preventative maintenance and repair operations on RDPS CERVs store parts for vehicles and have been specifically trained to perform maintenance and repair duties on the Ford Explorer Interceptor platform.

## 3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Report [#2019-MOH-6](#), approved by Regional Council on September 25, 2019, authorized:

- a. That the General Motors (GM) Chevrolet “Tahoe” be adopted as the standard vehicle for RDPS Command and Emergency Response Vehicles (CERVs) for a further period of three (3) years effective January 1, 2020;
- b. That the current RDPS CERVs custom upfitting package provided by Kerr Industries Limited be adopted as the standard for RDPS for a period of three (3) years effective January 1, 2020; and
- c. That authorization be granted to award a three (3) year extension to the existing agreement with Kerr Industries Limited for the purpose of purchasing custom upfitting packages and/or parts, as approved in the annual Paramedic Services Business Plans and Budgets.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Section 7.2 of the Region’s [Purchasing By-law #16-2020](#), permits the acquisition of goods and services through sole source negotiations under specific circumstances outlined in Appendix C of the By-law. Section 1.1 of Appendix “C” permits sole source purchases due to an absence of competition for technical reasons.
- 4.2 New CERVs will be purchased following a competitive bidding process through Ford dealerships in accordance with the Region’s Purchasing By-law.
- 4.3 Financing for the acquisition of CERV purchases and custom upfitting is included in the Paramedic Services Business Plans and Budgets.

#### **5. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
  - a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability
    - 1.1 Accelerate the adoption of green technologies and clean energy solutions through strategic partnerships and investment.
    - 1.4 Demonstrate leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.
  - b. Goal 5: Service Excellence
    - 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 In conclusion, it is recommended that RDPS adopt the Ford Explorer Interceptor as the standard vehicle for RDPS Command, Emergency Response and Community Programs for a period of five (5) years.
- 6.2 Further, it is recommended to adopt Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. as the standardized upfitter for RDPS CERVs for a period of five (5) years as it is the only certified upfitter that meets the current Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard, Version 6.1.
- 6.3 This report aligns with the goals of Environmental Sustainability and Service Excellence in the Durham Region Strategic Plan.
- 6.4 This report has been reviewed by the Finance Department and the Commissioner of Finance concurs with the recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM  
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer