



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 17, 2005  
Author: Joy Foo  
Phone No.: 604.326.4786  
RTS No.: 5510  
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Meeting Date: January 17, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services  
General Manager of Park Board

SUBJECT: Fleet Addition - Park Board Boom Truck

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$160, 000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account to add one (1) boom truck to the Park Board Arboriculture fleet to replace one (1) existing leased boom truck.
- B. THAT Council approve funding from internal rental rates.

#### COUNCIL POLICY

Council approves expenditures from Reserves, including the Truck and Equipment Plant Account.

Council approves all increases in service levels, including the addition of vehicles and equipment to the fleet.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to add an additional boom truck to the Park Board fleet.

## BACKGROUND

The Park Board Arboriculture Department utilizes boom trucks for their tree trimming operations. These trucks require comprehensive preventative and on-going maintenance due to the use of man-lifts near high-voltage power lines. The WCB mandates annual di-electric inspections, man-lift inspections, safety inspections, and hydraulic tool inspections for these units because of potential safety implications. The significant amount of maintenance required on these specialized trucks creates considerable downtime for the boom truck fleet.

## DISCUSSION

In September of 1997 the Park Board was authorized budget to operate a spare boom truck during peak seasonal periods due to the downtime of the existing fleet. The boom truck that was retained as a spare was at the end of its expected service life and had been replaced. Since the spare unit was an older boom truck, the truck required significant repairs and resulted in additional downtime. Consequently, the spare unit was retired and the Park Board commenced renting a boom truck.

Furthermore, in the last 10 years the Park Board Arboriculture Department has planted an additional 35 000 trees in the City. This additional unit is required to meet the demands of the additional tree work.

The need for an additional unit has been demonstrated by the year round use of the rental unit. There is potential to save \$20, 500 annually by switching from a rental unit to a City-owned unit

Additional advantages to having a City-owned boom truck, as compared to renting a truck include:

- Knowledge and history of the vehicle - operators become familiar with the truck which is similar in make and model to other trucks in the fleet.
- Availability - an additional truck will be available to meet the increased demands. Rental boom trucks can be difficult to obtain.
- City-owned equipment is customized and better equipped to perform the work.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Park Board currently spends \$64, 500 annually from its operating budget to cover the cost of external rental rates, maintenance, insurance and fuel for the rental unit. Conversely, the estimated costs to operate a City-owned boom truck would be \$44, 000 annually - a savings of \$20, 500 every year. The operating costs for the City-owned unit include the internal rental rates for capital, maintenance costs, insurance and fuel charges.

The purchase of a boom truck will require a one time charge of \$160, 000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account, which will be repaid over the eight (8) year life of the boom truck through the City rental rate system.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council authorize the addition of a boom truck to the Park Board fleet and appropriate funding be provided.

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