



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: April 20, 2006
Author: C. Lawson/S.Chai
Phone No.: 604-215-4809/
604-326-4793
RTS No.: 05860
VanRIMS No.: 03-2400-10
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TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager/Police Chief, Vancouver Police Department
General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Fleet Addition - Police Department Mounted Squad - Multi-Purpose Utility Vehicle

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$12,000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account to fund the capital cost of a 6x4 Utility Vehicle for the Vancouver Police Department Mounted Squad.
- B. THAT the capital costs be repaid to the Truck and Equipment Plant Account through annual charges of \$2,300 with funding to be provided by the existing 2006 Vancouver Police Department Operating Budget.
- C. THAT the maintenance and operating costs of approximately \$1,700 be provided from the existing 2006 Vancouver Police Department Operating Budget.

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 a multi-purpose utility vehicle to the Police Department fleet.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Police Department Mounted Squad is located in Stanley Park. There are ten (10) box stalls that house ten (10) police service horses, eight (8) outside paddocks, and a large turnout paddock. The large paddock is roughly 100 ft by 200 ft in dimension. There are nine (9) officers and three (3) civilians deployed at this location. The stables are operated as a conventional stable and require a certain degree of labour which includes movement of feed, hay, tack, and other stable equipment associated with the care of horses. Mounted Squad personnel are also responsible for maintaining the paddocks and stables including manure removal.

DISCUSSION

The Mounted Squad currently has one (1) utility vehicle being used on a daily basis for morning cleaning of the mud, paddock cleaning and night clean up. It is also used to harrow and maintain the grounds of the paddock. Originally transferred from the Parks Board to the Vancouver Police Department in January 2003 as a temporary loaner vehicle, this small all-terrain 6x4 utility vehicle has a cargo box mounted in the rear. The small size of the utility vehicle allows employees to maneuver it inside a stable which is not possible with a pickup truck. Its ability to drive in muddy terrain also makes it the only type of vehicle capable of performing the ground maintenance and harrowing functions. The continuous reliance on this vehicle has shown that there is a permanent need for the utility vehicle to aid in running the stables.

The utility vehicle originally belonged to the Parks Board and was replaced. Instead of disposing of the vehicle, the vehicle was donated to the Vancouver Police Department for use at the stables. The donated vehicle was purchased in 1994 and is approximately eleven (11) years old, and recurring mechanical problems and severe rusting are indicative that this unit has become uneconomical to repair. The utility vehicle is an extremely useful tool and is the most cost effective alternative to the type of farm equipment, such as a front end loader or a tractor, which would normally be required to perform the type of functions that are needed for a stable of this size.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be an estimated charge to the Truck and Equipment Plant Account of \$12,000, which will be repaid over the 6 year economic life of the utility vehicle through monthly capital rates of \$2,300. Other anticipated operating costs include \$1,400 in maintenance charges, and approximately \$300 for fuel. Funding for the capital and operating costs will be provided by the VPD Operating Budget.

There will be no increase to the 2006 Vancouver Police Department Operating Budget.

CONCLUSION.

The ongoing need for a permanent all terrain utility vehicle has been demonstrated by the use of a donated vehicle for the past three (3) years to perform daily labour intensive work at the Mounted Squad Stables in Stanley Park.

Accordingly, we recommend that \$12,000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account be used to purchase a multi-purpose utility vehicle for the Vancouver Police Department Mounted Squad fleet. The VPD 2006 Operating Budget will provide funds for operating expenses of approximately \$1,700 a year and to repay the Truck and Equipment Plant Account for capital costs of approximately \$2,300 a year.

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