



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 21, 2012
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Meeting Date: April 17, 2012

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
General Manager of Community Services Group

SUBJECT: Fleet Additions - Evelyne Saller Centre

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the allocation of \$35,000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account for the addition of one (1) fifteen passenger van to the Evelyne Saller Centre fleet.
- B. THAT the annual operating costs of the vehicle, including the capital repayment (for the portion funded from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account), be paid through annual charges of \$10,900, with funding for 2012 to be provided from the existing budget. Increases in future years, estimated as \$4,300 annually, will be managed in the context of the annual budget process for those years.

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 one (1) fifteen passenger van to the Evelyne Saller Centre fleet.

BACKGROUND

The Evelyne Saller Centre is located at 320 Alexander Street. The prime purpose of the Centre is to provide a variety of life support services to people with low incomes and special needs in the Downtown Eastside. The Centre operates 365 days per year and is open on weekdays from 9:00 am to 11:00 p.m., and on weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Centre focuses on supporting vulnerable people on low income, people with physical, mental, special needs and addiction issues. As well, the Centre has served as an Extreme Weather Shelter in the past and is still on call.

The services offered at Evelyne Saller Centre are as follows:

Food Services

The cafeteria provides hot meals with different menu courses offered each day. A full course breakfast, lunch or supper is available at a flat rate of \$2.00 for each meal. There were a total of 308,274 meals served in 2011.

Recreation

The goal of the Centre's Recreation services is to introduce and encourage all patrons, to participate in "active" social, recreation and life skill development programs. Often they seek out the Centre as a refuge from the streets, from the loneliness of single room accommodation and from personal isolation. The Evelyne Saller Centre van is used by the Recreation department in order to transport patrons to various outings in Vancouver and throughout the Lower Mainland.

Health Support Services

Many patrons live in single room accommodations or are homeless, where there is either limited or no access to showers and laundry services. The Centre provides free facilities for showers, laundry (Bed Bug laundry), first aid, and delousing.

In 1990, a passenger van was purchased by Cordova House with funds provided by the Ministry of Health. When Cordova House was transferred to The Wilberforce Cooper Care Society in 1996, the van was transferred to the Evelyne Saller Centre and recognized as a donated vehicle. The new vehicle will be an additional charge to the Truck and Equipment Plant Account.

DISCUSSION

The van is Evelyne Saller Centre's only vehicle and is used to transport patrons to local beaches and museums, Squamish, Golden Ears Park, Mount Seymour, White Rock, Lighthouse Park and Fort Langley as well as various special events. The van was used on at least 110 separate occasions over the last year. Because of this van approximately 1,300 people from the Downtown Eastside were able to go on day trips last year. Most patrons do not have the opportunity to leave the Downtown Eastside with the exception of these trips.

The van has also been used to assist in transporting homeless people from various sites to shelters throughout the city (i.e during Occupy Vancouver).

The Gathering Place, another City-owned community service centre serving the low-income population located in the Downtown South Area, also continues to use the van for their various programs and out-trips.

The current van is a 1990 model and based on its age and condition it is due for replacement. It has been determined that a 15 passenger van would continue to meet the needs of the Evelyne Saller Centre and, to a lesser extent, the Gathering Place.

The alternatives of using public transit and renting a van have been considered. Many of the trips involve long distances and lack of public transit to the location. Alternatively, renting a van for these trips will cost approximately \$14,300 per year and would require the van to be picked up and dropped off; this cost exceeds the cost of owning and operating a City vehicle and therefore renting is not recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The one-time capital cost and operating budget requirements for the unit are listed in Table 1 below, along with the offset of the \$6,600 currently provided for the operation and maintenance of the current unit.

The estimated capital cost of a fifteen passenger van is \$35,000. The capital charges for the unit's purchase and outfit will be funded from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account and repaid over the 10 year economic life of the unit through annual capital repayment rates of approximately \$4,500. This will be an additional charge to the Truck and Equipment Plant Account, as the previous donated vehicle was not subject to annual capital charges.

The annual operating costs of the unit are estimated to be \$6,400 and include maintenance, fuel and insurance. Since the Evelyne Saller Centre currently has \$6,600 in its operating budget to cover the operation of the current unit, this will require an increase in Evelyne Saller Centre's operating budget of approximately \$4,300 per year. The increase in 2012 will be funded in the existing operating budget without increase. Increases in future years will be managed in the context of the annual budget process for those years.

Table 1: Anticipated Vehicle Capital and Operating Costs

Vehicle Description	Expected Vehicle Life	One Time Capital Costs	Annual Operating Budget Requirements			Offset	Operating Budget Increase
			Capital*	Operating	Subtotal		
15 Passenger Van	10 years	\$35,000	\$4,500	\$6,400	\$10,900	\$6,600	\$4,300

* Capital calculation includes interest and the anticipated resale based on expected depreciation over the life.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

All new and replacement equipment in the City fleet go through an environmental and right-sizing review process. This is to ensure that the equipment will meet the goals of supporting operations, providing best value, leading the way in sustainable fleet practices and achieving the City GHG reduction targets.

It has been determined that the current 15 passenger van should be replaced with another like sized 15 passenger van. Obtaining the minimum engine size available will minimize fuel consumption and emissions. There are no fifteen passenger vans available with diesel engines and, while natural gas conversions are available, these vans do not have the payload capacity

to carry the additional weight of the natural gas fuel system as well as the passenger payload. There are currently no electric or hybrid units available in this size or configuration. This van will produce approximately 2 tons of greenhouse gas per year or 20 tons over its life.

CONCLUSION

To meet the ongoing operational requirements of the Evelyne Saller Centre, it is recommended that one (1) 15 passenger van be added to the Evelyne Saller Centre fleet, replacing a donated 1990 van the Centre has been using for the past fifteen years. Accordingly, we recommend that \$35,000 from the Truck and Equipment Plant Account be used to purchase the van. The additional costs of \$4,300 to cover the total annual capital repayment and operating expenses of the new unit in future years will be managed in the context of the annual budget process for those years.

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