

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services
May 13, 2021

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Donation of Decommissioned Paramedic Services Ambulances for 2021

1. Recommendations

1. Council approve the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to the following organizations that provide services in Ontario:
 - a. Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue.
 - b. Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team.
2. Council approve updating the York Region Paramedic Services Ambulance Donations – Guidelines (see Attachment 1) to include an annual deadline of January 31 for submitting applications, starting in 2022.

2. Summary

This report seeks Council approval to donate two decommissioned ambulances in 2021.

Key Points:

- Council has approved the donation of 10 decommissioned ambulances since 2014
- In [April 2018](#), Council adopted revised guidelines for donating decommissioned ambulances which included collecting all requests made in a year, and making one report to Council for approval
- From March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021, York Region Paramedic Services received and evaluated two applications for decommissioned ambulances in accordance with Council-approved guidelines and processes
- Both applicants meet the criteria as they are registered charitable organizations

3. Background

Council has approved the donation of 10 decommissioned ambulances since 2014

Previous donations have been used by charitable and humanitarian aid organizations to provide first aid services at local community events, mobile mental health education and hurricane relief efforts in the Caribbean.

Attachment 2 lists the Council-approved donations of ambulances since 2014.

Donation requests for decommissioned ambulances are evaluated using Council approved guidelines

In [April 2018](#), Council approved revised ambulance donation guidelines and processes to include:

- Applications for donated ambulances to be reviewed and presented to Council annually
- A maximum of two decommissioned ambulances may be donated per year
- Decommissioned ambulances may only be donated to registered charitable, not-for-profit or humanitarian aid organizations of sound repute that generally align with services supported by York Region
- Preference, in order of priority, will be as follows:
 1. Regional or local uses
 2. Provincial/Federal/International Relief or other organizations
- Eligible organizations must:
 1. Follow general guidelines outlined in York Region's [Community Investment Fund](#) that relate to not being affiliated with any political organization and not requiring that service is conditional upon participation in the religious activities of the organization
 2. Adhere to and support Ontario's Human Rights Code
- Prior to accepting the donated ambulance, the receiving organization must acknowledge, in writing, that The Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle, and that they are assuming ownership on an "as is" basis
- Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the recipient

Under the Council approved ambulance donation guidelines, all requests for donated ambulances are to be brought to Council for approval in April of any calendar year. However, due to later submissions in the application process, this report was moved to May to ensure fairness for eligible applicants.

4. Analysis

York Region Paramedic Services received two requests for decommissioned ambulances for 2021

Eligible organizations are required to submit a Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation Form to York Region Paramedic Services by February of any calendar year. Requests submitted after that time will be considered the following year. From March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021, York Region Paramedic Services received and evaluated two applications for decommissioned ambulances in accordance with Council-approved guidelines and processes.

Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue requests a donated ambulance to be used to support emergency rescue efforts

In July 2020, Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue submitted a request for a donated ambulance. Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue was first founded in 2002 as a charitable organization in the United Kingdom, and since then have been a registered non-profit organization in Canada. They are also a recognized humanitarian organization of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group under the United Nations umbrella. They provide volunteer humanitarian services for natural disasters and emergencies to support local communities across Ontario. Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue is requesting a donated ambulance to use as a multi-purpose technical rescue and flood response vehicle.

Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team requests a donated ambulance to be used to support emergencies in the community

In January 2021, Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team submitted a request for a donated ambulance. Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team is a registered charitable organization governed under the Ontario Search and Rescue Association — the governing body for volunteer search and rescue teams within the province of Ontario. They provide volunteer emergency response teams for local emergencies, natural disasters, and to assist police with incidents related to missing persons. Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team is requesting a donated ambulance to be used during deployment for missing persons, training exercises, responding to natural disasters and community emergencies.

Staff recommend amending the guidelines for ambulance donations to include an annual application deadline of January 31, starting in 2022

The current ambulance donation guidelines require applicants to submit requests for donated ambulances by February of any calendar year. However, it does not specify a particular day in the month of February, leading to ambiguity in the application process. To ensure timelines in the guidelines are clear, it is recommended that the date for application submissions be revised to include an annual application deadline of January 31, starting in 2022. Changing the date to January 31 clarifies what was meant when the donation guidelines originally

required that applications be submitted by February. Refer to Attachment 1 for the revised guidelines.

5. Financial

In 2017, a trade-in program was initiated with the Region's current ambulance vendor. The average trade-in value through this program in 2020 was \$18,000 per ambulance. The foregone revenue from the donation of two decommissioned ambulances is estimated at \$36,000.

The Region also incurs approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 to inspect and prepare each ambulance for donation in accordance with local regulation. All other expenses are the responsibility of the receiving organization (e.g. shipping, permits.)

6. Local Impact

Supporting charitable organizations such as Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue and Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team shows York Region's ongoing commitment to work with local agencies and municipal partners that provide services to meet local needs. Donating decommissioned ambulances to these two organizations will enhance their capacity to support communities in need.

7. Conclusion

It is recommended that Council authorize the donation of two decommissioned ambulances requested by Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue and Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team to provide support for community emergencies.

For more information on this report, please contact Lisa Gonsalves, General Manager at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72090. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by:



Katherine Chislett

Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Approved for Submission:



Bruce Macgregor

Chief Administrative Officer

April 22, 2021

Attachments (2)

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