



Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services

Donation of Decommissioned Paramedic Services Ambulances in 2023

1. Recommendations

1. Council approve the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to UHelpUkraine, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine.
2. Council approve the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to Voice of Vedas – Global Care Outreach (Voice of Vedas), and make exceptions to the application deadline and religious affiliation clause within the York Region Paramedic Services Ambulance – Guidelines (guidelines) for this organization.
3. Council approve changes to the guidelines shown in Appendix B.

2. Purpose

This report seeks Council approval to donate two decommissioned ambulances in 2023 and amend the guidelines for eligibility and the approval process for decommissioned ambulance donations.

Key Points:

- Since 2014, Council has approved the donation of 14 decommissioned ambulances
- In 2023, two applications for decommissioned ambulances were submitted from UHelpUkraine and Voice of Vedas
- The 2023 application review process identified opportunities for improving the current ambulance donation process and [guidelines](#) approved by Council in [April 2022](#)

- The recommended amendments to the guidelines aim to enhance efficiency and fairness within the application review process

3. Background

Council has approved the donation of 14 decommissioned ambulances since 2014

Ambulances must be maintained as required under standards set by the province to ensure mechanical readiness and reliability. Paramedic Services decommissions ambulances after five years or 250,000 kms based on historic performance, costs and maintenance required to meet the provincial standards. Annually, Council has approved the donation of up to two decommissioned ambulances to support organizations and communities in Canada and internationally.

Previous donations have been used to provide volunteer emergency response and training, first aid services at local community events, mobile mental health education, support for hurricane relief efforts and medical transportation for Nunavut communities. Donations typically occur in the calendar year following Council approval.

Appendix A lists decommissioned ambulances donations made since 2014.

Donation requests for decommissioned ambulances are evaluated based on Council approved guidelines

Council approved [guidelines](#) to support the recommendations for donations were last updated in [April 2022](#). The guidelines set out the application process, timelines, eligibility criteria and requirements to ensure the Region does not incur costs for shipping, permits and other related costs. This year's applications highlighted the need for amendments to the guidelines as explained below and set out in Appendix B.

4. Analysis

APPLICATIONS FOR 2023

Paramedic Services received two applications for decommissioned ambulances for 2023

Eligible organizations are required to submit a [Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation Form](#) (application form) by January 31 to be considered for the annual donations. Two applications were received from UHelpUkraine and Voice of Vedas requesting consideration for the 2023 decommissioned ambulances.

Staff evaluated the applications from UHelpUkraine and Voice of Vedas against the current guidelines and recommend a donation of one ambulance to each applicant to support their humanitarian causes.

UHelpUkraine provides humanitarian support to Ukrainian civilians impacted by the war in Ukraine

UHelpUkraine is a registered not-for-profit organization requesting a decommissioned ambulance to provide desperately needed emergency medical services for civilians in Ukraine. This application was submitted by UHelpUkraine, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine to Canada. The Embassy of Ukraine to Canada supports and collaborates with UHelpUkraine in providing humanitarian support to Ukraine.

UHelpUkraine was established in 2022 by a small group of Ukrainian Canadians in response to the Russian invasion. The not-for-profit organization grew out of their local volunteer work gathering and sending donations in support of Ukraine.

Staff recommends Council approve the donation of one decommissioned ambulance to UHelpUkraine, since it meets the guidelines and is aligned with [York Region's support of Ukraine](#).

Voice of Vedas through its global outreach program has requested an ambulance to support the Guyana Dialysis Centre

Voice of Vedas is a registered charitable organization seeking an ambulance to support the Guyana Dialysis Centres within the Doobay Medical Centre located near Georgetown, Guyana. In collaboration with McMaster University, the dialysis centre provides vital support to individuals with kidney failure, funding research and dialysis treatments for socioeconomically disadvantaged people in Guyana, significantly improving their quality of life and life expectancy.

Dr. Doobay has a long history of well-known and respected humanitarian work, evidenced by his receipt of the Order of Ontario (1993), the Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal (2002) and the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012).

The ambulance would support the Guyana Dialysis Centre, which includes optimizing clinic resources by moving patients between clinics, transporting patients to the clinic when they lack transportation, providing emergency hospital transport and offering mobile clinic services for patients in remote areas.

Staff recommends Council approve the donation of a decommissioned ambulance to Voice of Vedas in support of its valuable humanitarian work.

Approval of a decommissioned ambulance to Voice of Vedas requires exceptions to two requirements of the guidelines

The application was submitted one week after the January 31, 2023, deadline. Paramedic Services had received confirmation from Voice of Vedas regarding their intention to submit an application for a decommissioned ambulance by the deadline, however, the application was not submitted until a week later (February 7, 2023) by Dr. Budhendranauth Doobay on behalf of Voice of Vedas – Global Care Outreach. In making the recommendation to donate an ambulance to Voice of Vedas, staff are

also recommending Council make an exception to the application deadline in this case, as the application was expected and received shortly after the deadline.

The guidelines do not permit a donation to religious organizations to ensure that donated ambulances provide services that are [not conditional upon religious participation](#) or activities, in alignment with the [Community Investment Fund guidelines](#). Voice of Vedas is affiliated with a religious organization (Vishnu Mandir). In making the recommendation to donate an ambulance to Voice of Vedas, staff are also recommending Council make an exception to the religious affiliation rule because the ambulance will support the health services being provided to socioeconomically disadvantaged people in Guyana and provision of service is not conditional upon religious participation.

DONATION GUIDELINES

Staff recommend amending the ambulance donation guidelines to enhance efficiency and fairness within the application review process

Paramedic Services recommends the following three amendments to the guidelines to enhance efficiency and fairness in the application review and approval process for decommissioned ambulance donations. The recommended amendments are outlined in Table 1 as well as Appendix B in bold and underlined or in strikethrough.

Table 1
Recommended amendments to the Ambulance Donation Guidelines

Amendment Topics	Current requirement	Recommended change
Establish an Ambulance Donation Selection Committee	The guidelines require all applications to be presented to Council for consideration and approval, but do not currently outline the review process. Under the current process staff review all applications against the guidelines and conduct additional research and analysis, as required, to confirm accuracy and eligibility of each application prior to making recommendations to Council	Paramedic Services will establish a formal ambulance donation selection committee comprised of Paramedic and Seniors Services leadership and staff to internally review applications against the guidelines and make recommendations to Council.
Flexibility in report schedule	The current guidelines require applications to be presented to Council in April of each year. Permission was obtained to postpone the 2023 report to Council due to the	The April timeline would be removed and replaced with “an annual report”. Allowing flexibility within the Council report schedule will help ensure adequate time is available for a comprehensive review based on the

Amendment Topics	Current requirement	Recommended change
	additional time required for review and verification of application eligibility.	varying timeframes and actions required for each application.
Applicant Notification	The guidelines and application form do not currently provide direction related to notification of applicants.	An addition to the guidelines is recommended to clarify that all applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application after final approval(s) by Council. This information would also be provided to applicants within the Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation Form.

Exceptions to the guidelines may be considered on a case-by-case basis

Staff may recommend an application to Council that does not fully meet a guideline requirement based on the merit of the request and the level of alignment with the rest of the guidelines, as is being done within this report.

5. Financial Considerations

In 2017, a trade-in program was initiated with the Region’s ambulance vendor. The average trade-in value through this program in 2022 was \$19,000 per ambulance. The foregone revenue from the donation of two decommissioned ambulances is estimated at \$38,000.

The Region also incurs approximately \$4,000 to \$8,000 to inspect and prepare each ambulance for donation in accordance with local regulation. All other expenses, such as shipping and permits, are the responsibility of the recipient(s).

The disposal of other ambulances is in accordance with the Region’s Disposal of Surplus Assets Policy and is reported annually to Regional Council in the Disposal of Surplus Assets Report.

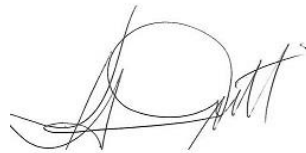
6. Local Impact

There is no direct local municipal impact associated with this report.

7. Conclusion

Paramedic Services recommends that Council amend the guidelines and authorize the donation of one decommissioned ambulance each to UHelpUkraine, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine, and Voice of Vedas – Global Care Outreach.

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

September 6, 2023

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Appendix A - Donation of Ambulances, 2014 to 2022

Appendix B - Ambulance Donation Guidelines and Application Form

Donation of Decommissioned Ambulances, 2014 to 2022

Council Approval	Agency/Organization	Purpose	Number of Ambulances
April 28, 2022	Ambulances4NU	Support emergency services in Nunavut	2
May 27, 2021	Emergency Response Team Search and Rescue	Volunteer rescue and flood response	1
	Ontario Volunteer Emergency Response Team	Emergency response and training	1
April 30, 2020	St. John Ambulance	Local community services	1
	Wounded Warriors Canada	Volunteer medical response and mobile mental health education	1
April 18, 2019	Friends of Ecuador	Hospital Vozandes des Oriente in Quito, Ecuador	1
	Access Centre on behalf of the David Faharlee	Medical Centre in Agago County, Uganda	1
April 19, 2018	Caribbean North Charities Foundation	Princess Margaret Hospital in Dominica following Hurricane Maria	1
June 23, 2016*	Caribbean North Charities Foundation	St. Jude Hospital, St. Lucia	1
	St. John Ambulance	Community events and first aid training	2
January 23, 2014	Friends of Ecuador	Anconcito Parish in the Municipality of Salinas and its hospital in Ecuador	1
September 11, 2014	Chippewas of Georgina Island	Volunteer Emergency Response Team	1
Total Donations			14

*Note: prior to the Council approved revised ambulance guidelines in [April 2018](#) more than two (2) decommissioned ambulances were permitted per year.

York Region Paramedic Services Ambulance Donations - Guidelines and Application Form

Note: The recommended changes to these guidelines are in **bold** and underlined or in strikethrough

1. All requests received are held up to twelve (12) months. **All applications are evaluated against these guidelines by a selection committee within Paramedic and Seniors Services and** presented in an ~~April~~ annual report to Council for consideration and approval.
2. Application Forms are required to be submitted by January 31 of any calendar year. Any requests submitted after that time will be held for consideration within the following year.
3. A maximum of two ambulances will be available for consideration each year.
4. Any expense for shipping, permits and related costs must be covered by the recipient.
5. If successful in their request, prior to accepting the donation, the recipient will be required to 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.
6. Donations will only occur to registered charitable, not-for-profit, humanitarian aid organizations or other entities in need of donated ambulances for charitable or humanitarian purposes, and who are of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
7. Applicants must not be affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Ontario Human Rights Code.
8. **All applicants will be notified by Paramedic Services of the outcome of their request after final approval by Council.**
9. Paramedic and Seniors Services require a Request for Consideration of Ambulance Donation Form (Application Form) be completed by the requestor, which will be provided to an applicant on request.
10. A record of all correspondence will be kept on file, including the date requests were acknowledged with the attached Application Form.
11. The Application Form must be signed by a person having authority on behalf of the requestor.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF AMBULANCE DONATION

Contact person's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email and/or Website URL: _____ Date of Submission: _____

Legal name of your organization: _____

Operating name (if different from legal name): _____

How did you hear about this opportunity: _____

Does your organization operate: Regionally Locally Provincially Federally Internationally

Please check the box(s) below that apply to your organization:

Registered Charitable Organization Not for Profit Organization

Humanitarian Aid Organization Other entity

Your organization's Charitable Registration Number (if applicable) is: _____

Please summarize the specifics of your request in the space below and provide supporting documentation as an attachment to this form when submitted:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. All donation requests are reviewed annually. A maximum of two (2) ambulances will be made available in any year and the applications for donation will be reviewed **through a selection committee** and approved by Regional Council based on merit, not submission date. Decommissioned ambulances are usually presented to approved applicants within 12 months of the application deadline. However, a timeframe for availability cannot be guaranteed.
2. **All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application after final approval(s) by Regional Council.**
3. **Applications are requested by January 31st for consideration in that year. Applications received after this date will be held for consideration within the following year.**
4. All expenses and arrangements for shipping, permits, medical supplies, equipment (e.g., stretcher) and related costs are the sole responsibility of the organization receiving the donation.
5. Prior to accepting the donation, the organization will be required to 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.
6. Donations will only occur to registered charitable, not-for-profit, humanitarian aid organizations or other entities in need of donated ambulances who are of sound repute and generally align with the services supported by York Region.
7. Organizations requesting an ambulance donation must not be affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Human Rights Code.

I, _____ Name _____, on behalf of _____ Name Of Organization _____, have read, fully understand and agree to the terms set out in paragraphs 1-7 above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please submit this completed form via e-mail to: Paramedics@york.ca