

## Request for Decision

### EMS Paramedic Response Unit (PRU) Conversion

Presented To:	Community Services Committee
Presented:	Monday, Dec 02, 2013
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Type:	Managers' Reports

### Recommendation

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury authorize the City's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Division to maintain a standardized Paramedic Response Unit (PRU) fleet through purchasing of vehicle conversion services from Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. of Mississauga, ON for the next five (5) years in accordance with the Purchasing By-law Section 7. In the event there is a special requirement for a non-standard response unit or where provincial certification standards change or emerging technological advancements present themselves, a public tender may be issued by the City.

### Finance Implications

No Financial Implications - Total costs for the local purchase of base SUV chassis and the conversion work to turn the vehicle into a "certified" Paramedic Response Unit is approved annually by Council as part of the Emergency Services Capital Budget.

#### Signed By

**Report Prepared By**

Joseph Nicholls  
Deputy Chief of Emergency Services  
*Digitally Signed Nov 26, 13*

**Recommended by the Department**

Tim Beadman  
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**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Doug Nadorozny  
Chief Administrative Officer  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division seeks Council authorization to maintain a standardized Paramedic Response Unit (PRU) fleet converted and outfitted by Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products of Mississauga, ON. In 2005, Council approved (Resolution 2005- 126) for the EMS Division to move to a standardized PRU fleet. The benefits of a standardized PRU fleet allow the Service to optimize the EMS fleet in the areas of vehicle management, training, logistics, and maintenance by reducing fleet variation.

## BACKGROUND

The City of Greater Sudbury EMS responds to over 36,000 calls annually, travelling over 1,000,000 kilometers with a fleet of twenty-two (22) ambulances, and ten (10) Paramedic Response Units a SUV style vehicle staffed by a single paramedic.

The EMS Division, as part of our annual vehicle replacement program, requires between one and two new PRUs each year. New vehicles replace those vehicles that have reached or exceeded their service life.

The City's EMS Division purchases SUV style base vehicles from local car dealerships under the broader public sector Police Coop Purchasing Group (PCPG). These base vehicles must then be sent to a conversion vendor to be up-fitted in order to be used as a PRU in Ontario. The vendor completes the conversion ensuring the vehicle upon delivery complies with the legislated provincial standards.

There are three (3) Ontario vendors able to provide "certified" PRUs, each vendor has a base conversion cost of approximately \$10,000. These base conversion costs do not reflect optional and custom upgrades that add approximately \$15,000 to the vehicle base conversion price. Selected options are added to the base units to improve operational capability, medical storage, ergonomics, while enhancing Paramedic and public safety. A Sudbury-built PRU costs approximately \$65,000 (net).

Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products has extensive experience within the EMS conversion market and is a recognized leader in the design and building of Ontario EMS specialty vehicles. Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products had previously been the exclusive Vendor of Record (VOR) contract with the MOHLTC to carry out all PRU conversion work on their behalf until this responsibility was transferred to the municipalities.

The EMS Division's experience with Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products has been very positive, with few concerns related to the vehicles. Rowland's has consistently demonstrated strong after sales service through a commitment to problem resolution and solid technical support. Rowland's has developed a reputation in the EMS sector for quality materials and workmanship.

## **BENEFITS OF PRU STANDARDIZATION**

Fleet standardization is important to the EMS Division due to the large number of Paramedics working in these vehicles. Standardization allows the Service to optimize the fleet in the areas of vehicle management, training, logistics, and maintenance by reducing fleet variation. The following are some key benefits of fleet standardization:

- Greater control of logistical operations in managing standard practices for locating equipment, restocking, cleaning, and disinfecting practices.
- Standard medical equipment storage layout allows equipment to be located in a standardized manner across the PRU fleet, allowing Paramedics to easily locate emergency equipment and supplies when treating patients.
- Simplified training required for Paramedics as they only need to learn about the operation for one type of vehicle.
- Allows the City Fleet Services Section to better manage technical support and warranty work, one stop shopping.
- Streamlines process for Fleet Services in maintaining adequate stock of vendor parts for the PRUs, saving on ordering and reducing storage requirements needed for multiple vendors.
- Fleet Services' mechanics require one set of tools, manuals, schematics, and diagnostic software to maintain the PRU fleet.
- Faster and more efficient repairs due to technical familiarization, training, and experience with a single PRU conversion vendor.
- Fleet mechanics can interchange parts between vehicles to maintain serviceability.

## **FLEET SERVICES**

Fleet Services support continued work with Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products; they are satisfied with product quality and after sales service, their experience has shown Rowland's to be a dependable supplier.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The EMS Division maintains a standardized PRU fleet through purchasing vehicle conversion services from Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products Inc. of Mississauga, ON for the next five (5) years in accordance with the purchasing by-law section 7. In the event there is a special requirement for a non-standard response unit or where provincial certification standards change or emerging technological advancements present themselves, a public tender may be issued by the City