

# Paramedic Response Unit (PRU) Standardization

## BACKGROUND

The City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services completes over 64,296 vehicle responses annually, travelling over 1.1M kilometers (fleet data software) with a fleet of twenty-three (23) ambulances, and eight (8) Paramedic Response Units (a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) style vehicle staffed by a single Paramedic).

The City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services 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 of 72 months and typically have almost 300,000 kilometers.

The City's Paramedic Services Division purchases SUV style, emergency response certified vehicles to ensure the safety of our staff and the motoring public. These vehicles have specific safety enhancements and are only available for sale to recognized emergency service agencies. The vehicles are designed for emergency response with improved handling, braking, cooling system, electrical systems and ready to accept vehicle up fitting (emergency warning, communications and storage systems) to convert them to emergency vehicles.

These vehicles are purchased using normal tender purchasing by-laws. These assets are purchased under the Broader Public Service of Ontario and as such are eligible for concessions (discounts) on vehicles included in the Ministry of Government Services Vendor of Record arrangement. These base vehicles must then be sent to a conversion vendor to be up-fitted in order to be used as a certified PRU in Ontario. The vendor completes the conversion ensuring the completed vehicle complies with the Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance & Emergency Response Vehicle Standard.

There are three (3) main Ontario vendors able to provide "certified" PRUs. Selected options are added to the base units to improve operational capability, medical storage, ergonomics, emergency warning lights and sirens, while enhancing Paramedic and public safety. A Sudbury-built PRU costs approximately \$65,000 (net).

Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products has extensive experience within the Paramedic conversion market and is a recognized leader in the design and building of Ontario Paramedic specialty vehicles. Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products had previously been the exclusive Vendor of Record (VOR) contract with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to carry out all PRU conversion work on their behalf until this responsibility was transferred to the municipalities. With Council approval, it is permissible for non-competitive purchases under Part 22, Section 1 (b)(i) of the Purchasing By-Law.

The City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic Division's experience with Rowland Emergency Vehicle Products has been very positive, with few concerns related to the vehicles quality of work performed. 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 Paramedic sector for quality materials and workmanship.

## **BENEFITS OF PRU STANDARDIZATION**

Fleet standardization is important to the Paramedic Services Division due to the large number of Paramedics working in these unique vehicles. Standardization allows the Service to effectively manage the fleet in the areas of vehicle management, training, logistics and maintenance by reducing fleet variation.

The following are the key advantages and benefits of fleet standardization:

- Greater control of fleet logistical operations in terms of managing standard practices for daily vehicle processing. This work includes locating equipment, restocking, cleaning and disinfecting processes.
- Standard compartment cabinet layout allows equipment to be stored in a consistent, familiar manner across the entire fleet. This allows Paramedics to easily locate emergency supplies and equipment when arriving to treat a patient under demanding emergency conditions.
- Solid familiarization of build quality, control and performance characteristics improves safety for Paramedics as they work from these vehicles.
- Training required for Paramedics consists of existing competencies, knowledge and behaviors, no new formal training needed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury Paramedic 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.