

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**  
**Infrastructure and Engineering Services**  
**Drainage, Asset and Waste Management**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Kevin Rankin  
Manager, Fleet Services

**Date:** February 24, 2018

**Subject:** One Full-Time Permanent Auto/Fire Technician

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. Fleet Services be approved to hire one full-time permanent Auto/Fire Vehicle Technician at a net \$0 cost to the Municipality.

**Background**

Fleet Services is responsible for the preventative and ongoing maintenance of over 660 pieces of equipment with six technicians and the support of one outside vendor technician for fire apparatus.

Chatham-Kent Fire services the citizens of Chatham-Kent using highly specialized equipment that requires maintenance as well as emergency repairs on a 24 hour a day, seven days a week (24/7) basis.

The vendor that currently provides fire apparatus maintenance and emergency repairs 24/7 on behalf of Fleet Services has given notice they will cease operation at the end of March 2018. The skillset for these repairs is very unique and a standard 310T mechanic is not trained in this area. Over the last year, the current vendor has been operated by their sole mechanic with support from Fleet Services. If the outsourced position is no longer accessible, it will jeopardize the ability to meet demands of specialized fire equipment with a department lacking that experience.

In order to sustain the current fleet of fire vehicles, Fleet Services is recommending the repairs be brought "in house" for various economic, logistical and safety reasons.

In 2017, the total paid to the vendor was \$191,265.41. Approximately \$150,000.00 of the total was for labour. The shop rate of the current vendor is \$82/hr while the only other vendor who may undertake these repairs currently has a shop rate of \$119/hr. In addition to the potential higher shop rate, there is little confidence that the current level of service of (24/7) support will continue.

Further cost savings will be realized as outside vendors typically apply a markup on all components. If the service is brought in-house, the markup is eliminated.

As this is a specialized position requiring specific training, it is recommended this position be posted as soon as possible to ensure the safety of those currently using the equipment as well as residents requiring immediate response from Chatham-Kent Fire Services. It is imperative that this position has the necessary certification and be familiar with the Fire Fleet. If this position is not approved, the Municipality will be faced with higher outsourcing costs and risks related to 24/7 coverage.

### **Comments**

#### **Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

- Economic Prosperity:  
Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy
- A Healthy and Safe Community:  
Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth
- People and Culture:  
Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community
- Environmental Sustainability:  
Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

- Financial Sustainability:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable
- Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:  
The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and

effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

- Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors
- Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

### **Consultation**

Fleet Services has consulted with the following Departments and all are in agreement:

- Chatham-Kent Fire Services
- Finance/Budget and Information Technology Services

### **Financial Implications**

There will be no added financial implications to the Fleet Services budget as all wages including labour burden will be offset by the reduction in the cost of outsourcing the repairs and maintenance of the Chatham-Kent Fire Services Fleet. Further additional savings will be realized in purchasing parts directly with no markup by outside vendors. Any realized savings by bringing this service in house, will be brought forward to a future budget.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Kevin Rankin  
Manager,  
Fleet Services

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Tim Dick, C.E.T.  
Director  
Drainage, Asset and Waste Management

Reviewed by:

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Thomas Kelly, P. Eng., MBA  
General Manager,  
Infrastructure and Engineering Services

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

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Bob Crawford, Chief

Fire and Emergency Services

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Mike Turner, CPA, CMA  
Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer

Attachment: None

C: Bob Crawford, Fire and Emergency Services  
Mike Turner, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer  
Matt Torrence, Supervisor, Accounting Operations

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