

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

**DATE:** 2014 December 05

**FROM:** CITY CLERK

**FILE:** 2410-20

**SUBJECT:** COQUITLAM SEARCH AND RESCUE SOCIETY  
MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To provide information on Coquitlam Search and Rescue Society, and to seek approval for financial support to replace the Mobile Command Centre

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Executive Committee of Council recommend Council approve a grant in the amount of \$35,000 to the Coquitlam Search and Rescue Society for replacement of the Mobile Command Centre.

**REPORT**

The Executive Committee of Council, at its meeting held on 2014 December 04, received a delegation from Coquitlam Search and Rescue Society outlining their various operations and responsibilities, and seeking assistance to fund the Mobile Command Centre Replacement Project (*detailed SAR's report on the Mobile Command Centre Replacement Prospectus is available in the Office of the City Clerk*).

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Coquitlam Search and Rescue (SAR) serves the communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, Belcarra, Burnaby and New Westminster, and has provided emergency services in both urban and wilderness settings since 1972. The services provided include:

- wilderness search and rescue
- wilderness medical rescue
- swiftwater rescue
- mountain rescue
- rope (high angle and slope) rescue
- avalanche rescue
- inland waters rescue
- missing children and adults with dementia searches

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- police evidence searches
- animal rescue
- disaster assistance
- evacuation due to flooding, earthquake, landslide and interface forest fire
- tracking
- community services, and more.

## **2.0 THE TEAM**

The team, based at Coquitlam's Town Centre Fire Hall, operates under the provincial Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and performs searches and rescue in an area that is over 1000 km<sup>2</sup>. The team also assists the RCMP detachments in the Lower Mainland jurisdictions.

Coquitlam SAR currently has 54 active members, all volunteers; members are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on a year-round basis.

In 2013, the team responded to 38 operations for a total of 3,044 volunteer hours, resulting in the rescue or recovery of 29 persons. Professional emergency service providers, i.e. police, BC Ambulance, the provincial Coroner's Office, and the communities have come to rely upon Coquitlam SAR for the essential services it provides.

## **3.0 THE MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE**

Search and rescue activities are planned, implemented and managed in the Mobile Command Centre (MCC). The MCC allows the team to deploy where needed with the aid of pre-plans, maps, radio and satellite communications, internet access and equipment for the team's full range of technical rescue skills. The MCC activities include all aspects of the provincial Incident Command System.

### **3.1 CURRENT MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE**

The current Command Centre, a Grumman panel truck, has a chassis that is commonly used for delivery of bulky, but light, goods. While adequate for cargo, such as bakery products or parcels, SAR operations require a vehicle which can not only support command centre operations but also transport heavier cargo such as stretchers, ropes, generators, fuel, batteries, rescue equipment and an array of computer equipment.

### **3.2 NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE**

The new Command Centre consists of three major components:

1. Cab & Chassis  
A Freightliner M2-106 Extended Cab with a Cummins 6.7L turbo diesel engine or equivalent cab & chassis has been determined to meet the needs of the new MCC and address shortcomings of the current vehicle.
2. Command Centre Module  
The heart of the centre, containing the infrastructure and equipment necessary to support the effective management of all phases of a SAR operation. The module includes metal enclosure, desks, cabinets and shelves, wiring, lighting, auxiliary generator air conditioning and space heating systems, etc.
3. Command Centre Technology  
This centre is comprised of the electronic technology which directly supports search and rescue management (computer hardware, video monitors and a smart board, printers, software, batteries, communication systems, including radios, cell and satellite phones, and internet connectivity).

### **4.0 FUNDING**

The estimated project budget, including all applicable taxes, is \$407,300. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 has been already committed to the replacement of the Command Centre from CSAR Endowment Fund (\$35,000) and City of Coquitlam (\$65,000).

Funding is also being solicited by the Society from the following sources: Spirit of Coquitlam Grant, BC Gaming Grant, City of Port Moody, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Burnaby, Metro Vancouver and other corporate sponsors.

### **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY**

The projected life span of the new Mobile Command Centre is 20 years, commensurate with the command centre that is to be replaced. The City of Coquitlam will maintain and repair as necessary the Cab and Chassis over the lifespan of the Mobile Centre as an 'in kind' donation, while Coquitlam SAR will maintain, repair and upgrade, as necessary, the Command Centre Technology as part of its operating budget and from future grant applications.

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## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

The SAR's current Mobile Command Centre, in which search and rescue activities are planned, implemented and managed, is 20 years old and due for replacement. In addition to providing command centre capability for the next 20 years, a new Mobile Command Centre will provide a more robust vehicle to meet the needs of one of the fastest growing areas of the Lower Mainland, with the capability to travel on more challenging roads and with greater fuel efficiency, transport additional field equipment, and enhance search and rescue management capability through new technology and additional floor space for work stations and briefings. It is recommended that a grant in the amount of \$35,000 be approved to support the Mobile Command Centre Replacement Project.

Dennis Back  
CITY CLERK

Copied to: City Manager  
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