

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

DATE: 2015 February 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

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Executive Committee of Council recommend Council approve a grant 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 km². 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 COQUITLAM SAR RESPONSES TO THE CITY OF BURNABY (2010 – 2014)

Coquitlam SAR responded to incidents in the City of Burnaby 16 times in the last five years, on an average of three times a year. Coquitlam SAR devoted a total of 1422 person hours to these responses, averaging 284 hours a year.

Year	Responses	Hours
2010	3	278
2011	4	323
2012	1	77
2013	4	588
2014	4	156
Total	16	1422
Average	3	284

3.1 COQUITLAM SAR COMMUNITY TASK RESPONSES (2010 – 2014)

Coquitlam SAR's primary area of responsibility includes the communities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, Belcarra, Burnaby and New Westminster. The team also responds under mutual aid agreements to other SAR teams when requested, i.e. Ridge Meadows SAR (responses to the Pitt River / Pitt Lake / Upper Pitt River areas) and North Shore SAR.

In the table below, there is a list of communities and the number of tasks Coquitlam SAR responded to in the last five years.

Community	Responses	Hours	Percentage
Anmore	34	2176	22.67%
Coquitlam	31	2087	20.67%
Burnaby	16	1422	10.67%
Maple Ridge	13	685	8.67%
Other	18	3530	12.00%
Pitt Area	9	769	6.00%
Surrey	8	276	5.33%
Belcarra	6	711	4.00%
Port Coquitlam	7	1131	4.67%
North Shore	4	226	2.67%
Unknown	4	32	2.67%

** The Village of Anmore is part of the Coquitlam RCMP detachment. Parts of the area around Belcarra are under the jurisdiction of the Port Moody Police, including parts of Belcarra Regional Park. Pitt Lake responses are most often shared with Ridge Meadows SAR.*

**Responses to the communities shaded in blue are considered mutual aid, or responses into another team's area.*

**"Other" designates responses to deep wilderness areas far beyond community boundaries, or occasional responses to other areas of the province or other communities.*

**There were a few tasks for which a location could not be determined, and these are included as "unknown"*

4.0 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.

4.1 CURRENT MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE

The current Mobile Command Centre, a Grumman panel truck, has a chassis that is commonly used for delivery of bulky, but light, goods. SAR operations require a vehicle which can support command centre operations, but also transport heavier cargo such as stretchers, ropes, generators, fuel, batteries, rescue equipment and an array of computer equipment.

4.2 NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTRE

The new Mobile 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 contains 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).

5.0 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.

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6.0 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.

7.0 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 be approved to support the Coquitlam SAR Mobile Command Centre Replacement Project.

Dennis Back
CITY CLERK

Copied to: City Manager
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