

## **Report to Committee of the Whole**

**Date:** 6/9/2025  
**From:** Brad Cole, Fire Chief  
**Re:** Proposed EMS Response Unit

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the report outlining the request from Leeds and Grenville Paramedic Service to house a first response paramedic vehicle in the Merrickville Fire Department fire station;

AND THAT Committee directs the CAO and Fire Chief to work with Leeds and Grenville Paramedic Service to bring back a possible lease agreement to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Council Meeting for final approval.

### **BACKGROUND**

Staff were contacted by Leeds and Grenville Paramedic service to discuss the potential of a Paramedic response vehicle being housed at the fire station 7 days a week from 9am to 9pm daily. The vehicle will be staffed by one Paramedic that will respond to calls first until an ambulance is available to attend the scene for patient transport if needed. The unit will be housed overnight in Frankville and then driven to Merrickville for the start of the Paramedic's shift and will go back to Frankville after the shift ends.

The request was to keep the response vehicle inside the fire station, so it is out of the weather, and it needs to be plugged in when not in use to keep the equipment charged. The Paramedic working will need an office and have access to the washrooms/shower and kitchen facilities. This will be part of the draft lease agreement and will be laid out by a square foot costing.

The fire service will have to move our Unit 3 response vehicle out of the station to allow the Paramedic unit to be housed inside the station. This will mean Unit 3 will be out in the weather and not ready to respond to a call immediately during inclement weather. The vehicle will need to be housed in some sort of shelter near the station and plugged in, so it is available for calls at any time.

Unit 3 is the backup medical response vehicle if Pump 5 is unavailable or at another call and if not stored inside, all the medical gear would have to be kept inside and a delay would incur as we bring the gear out to the vehicle each time it was needed due to the equipment having to always stay warm. The other alternative would be to look at changing to another large apparatus to be the secondary response vehicle unit.

This response unit is not specific to only Merrickville-Wolford and could respond to calls outside of our area as well if needed. It was also identified that the current automatic

response agreement the fire department has with EMS will not change with the Paramedic unit staffed at the station.

### ANALYSIS

The room upstairs in the fire station within the apparatus floor that EMS has been looking at is not complete and staff feel that it would not be a suitable location as it does not have heat or A/C. When staff spoke with the Deputy Chief of EMS we asked if they would make the changes to the room themselves as part of the agreement. This is an option they confirmed they would discuss and could be reflected within the agreement to be brought back to Council. Staff would like to work with EMS and make some other recommendations for potential areas to be used for the Paramedic to be located.

Staff will bring back a cost breakdown to the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Council Meeting, as well as the potential costs to house our apparatus close to the station and a rough costing for power consumption used by the EMS vehicle per day.

It was also requested that they provide a call breakdown and response number for Council to see the number of calls that are being generated in Merrickville-Wolford per year to better help with decision making.

Facilities subject to this lease agreement include those areas noted below and as outlined in Schedule "A" as attached to this lease agreement.

Office	70 square feet
Vehicle bay	235 square feet
Washrooms (shared space)	76 square feet
Kitchen (shared space)	200 square feet
<b>Total leased space</b>	<b>581 square feet</b>

### BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget implications for this report will be the cost of potentially building or renovating a space to house Unit 3 as well as the staff time spent preparing the potential office space for the Paramedic by clearing out the space.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion staff would ask that Council agree to allow the CAO and the Fire Chief to work with Leeds Grenville EMS to come up with a draft lease agreement for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for review and comment.

## ATTACHMENTS

Schedule "A" - Floor plan for the proposed areas that would be used by EMS

Submitted by:

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Brad Cole, Fire Chief

Approved by:

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Darlene Plumley, CAO