

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DCS 01-2022

Council Meeting Date: January 6, 2022

TO: Mayor Weber and Members of Council
FROM: Steve McAuley, Chief Administrative Officer
RE: 2022 Bucket Truck Purchase

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DCS 01-2022 regarding the 2020 Bucket Truck Purchase be received; and

THAT Council approves the purchase of a new Bucket Truck as a 2022 capital expenditure

SUMMARY

In 2018, the Municipality replaced an aging full sized bucket truck with a new boom lift. This report requests Council approve the replacement of the boom lift with a new small bucket truck.

BACKGROUND

The Municipality performs a number of road maintenance operations requiring the use of aerial devices such as trimming low hanging branches over the roadway, clearing sightlines at intersections and around signs, cutting dead or problem trees and installing banners and decorations on main streets.

A Genie TZ-50 boom lift was purchased in 2018 in order to be used to perform some of the above activities. This lift is a tow behind model requiring a 1 Ton truck to pull it. Over the last 2 years this equipment has seldom been used due to its onerous operation. The equipment can create a safety issue due to the boom needing to extend sideways approximately 4m and extending out into a traffic lane. The unit also has 4 outriggers extending out of the frame that needs to be set up every time the machine needs to move. This reduces the efficiency of this unit especially when installing/removing decorations or trimming branches requiring moving 20-30 times a day. The increase in the use of pole banners and Christmas decorations has only exacerbated the issues with the boom lift.

To install and remove decorations, staff have rented an aerial device at an average cost of \$1500/week. Tree cutting/trimming has been mostly performed by our 2 local tree service (Tri-County and Ontario Choice) at an average annual expense of \$60,000/\$75,000 a year. Though there is no intention to begin cutting large trees and this type of activity would continue to be performed by a tree service, a reduction in the

annual expenditures for brushing and small tree removal could be achieved, as well as improved trimming operations.

For the months of October and November 2021, a bucket truck was leased from Commercial Equipment in order to perform much required tree and branch trimming before the winter season and to install decorations in Forest and Grand Bend. This pilot project proved to be very successful with a much higher level of efficiency being achieved.

An example of the type and size of bucket truck staff is requesting is shown below in Figure 1.



Figure 1 - Example of Requested Bucket Truck

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

Council could decide to not make any changes to the current fleet, and continue using a combination of contracted services and rental equipment Council to complete aerial work. Council could also reduce the budget available for a bucket truck and direct staff to consider a used unit instead of a new unit.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Staff is recommending that the current boom lift be replaced in 2022 with a new small bucket truck.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

A new bucket truck is estimated at \$175,000 - \$190,000, as such the 2022 budget, as presented, includes a \$180,000 capital expense. A slightly used bucket truck (2-3 years old) may be available at an estimated cost of \$80,000-\$120,000, however the used

market is hard to predict as to availability and location. Staff would not recommend purchasing a used truck unless an in-person inspection of the vehicle could be done.

If a bucket truck is approved, the existing Genie boom would be sold. The estimated remaining value on the boom is \$45,000-\$50,000. Funds from the sale of any equipment that is being replaced is directed back into the Vehicle Reserve Fund.

CONSULTATION

Mike Houle – Transportation Manger