



Staff Report

Report Title: Used Tandem Plow Truck Purchase

Prepared By: John Yungblut

Department: Public Works

Date: Sep. 8, 2021

Report Number: PW-2021-09-69

File Number: V01 PLO 21

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby approves Report Number PW2021-09-69 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works AND approves the purchase of a used tandem plow truck at a maximum value of \$50,000.00 AND FURTHER declares the 2005 Sterling Tandem Plow truck to be surplus.

Background:

In the fall of 2020, Public Works began winter maintaining all Township roads along the Lakeshore because no bids were received from contractors. The Lakeshore was maintained with the addition of three new plow routes: Route 9 included the highest volume roadways such as Lake Range Dr., Amberley Road, Boiler Beach Rd and the areas of Heritage Heights, Kin Bruce and Huronville. Route 10 included all roads that are at least two lanes wide in the areas of Point Clark, Lurgan Beach and Blairs Grove. Route 11 included all the narrow roadways such as Victoria Road, Lakeside Trail and Vozka Dr. The operator responsible for Route 11 was also tasked with patrolling duties. Routes 9, 10 and 11 were maintained with a tandem plow, single axle plow and a one tonne plow respectively.

Discussion:

Township staff have been reviewing our winter maintenance strategy from last winter and although we were please with the Level of Service that was provided to our residents, staff have identified one issue that we would like to address prior to this winter.

After several revisions to our new plow routes over the winter, including extending the existing rural routes, it was determined that Route 9 was still too long and the operator became very close to exceeding the 70 hour weekly limit of on-duty time required by our Commercial Vehicles Operators Registration (CVOR) during the heavy snowfall events in February 2021. Multiple trips to Ripley for winter sand was also a contributing factor to this issue.

The preferred solution is to add another Lakeshore plow route that will be plowed with a tandem plow truck and will be responsible for the Heritage Heights, Kin Bruce and Huronville areas and allow Route 9 to focus on the higher volume roads such as Lake Range Drive, Amberley Road, Boiler Beach Road and the Concession roads. The addition of another tandem axle plow truck will also reduce the number of trips to Ripley required by each truck for winter sand.

We have added the 2021 Western Star tandem plow truck to our fleet that was to replace the 2005 Sterling, Township staff considered repairing and keeping the 2005 truck instead of purchasing another used tandem truck. We have decided that keeping the 2005 truck is not the preferred route since it is in poor condition, and it has had several electrical problems that have been difficult to resolve over the last few years. Having reliable plow trucks in our fleet is critical to maintaining our Level of Service for our residents.

This solution will also require the hiring of another relief snow plow operator.

Financial Impacts:

The purchase of a used tandem plow was not included in the 2021 Capital Budget, however, we expect to have approximately \$40,000 in savings after the purchase of a different roadside mower model than originally planned and approximately \$45,000 in savings from not replacing the 2003 one tonne truck that was deemed to be surplus in 2020.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having amenities and services nearby and being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer