

Item No. 16.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) Notice of Motion given Jan. 28/20	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
<p>Date of Council Meeting: Regional Council Meeting, Tuesday, February 11, 2020</p> <p>Subject: One-time Capital Grant – Mobile Food Market Food Distribution Vehicle</p>		
<p>Motion for Council to Consider: That Regional Council direct staff to prepare a report to the Audit and Finance Standing Committee outlining possibilities for a one-time capital grant of up to \$75,000 to the Mobile Food Market to assist in the purchase of a new food distribution vehicle (Grumman-style truck), and for the Audit and Finance Standing Committee to make a recommendation to Regional Council.</p> <p>Reason: The Mobile Food Market (MFM) is entering its 4th year in operation, and currently operates year-round in 13 locations across 6 communities in HRM. The MFM is a collaboration between HRM, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Ecology Action Centre, MetroWorks Employment Services, and other community partners. To date, HRM's contribution has been through in-kind support, including the provision of HRM vehicles for the distribution of food and market hosting, the use of municipally-owned facilities, staff support and communication resources.</p> <p>The MFM currently uses a Halifax Transit bus for spring/summer markets, and a Corporate Fleet van year-round. In October 2019, the model of Transit bus used by the MFM was retired. The new models have a different layout which is challenging to continued use for the MFM. The Corporate Fleet van is nearing the end of its life. Corporate Fleet does not have a continued need for this type of vehicle and have indicated that they are not planning to replace it nor is there a suitable replacement vehicle. <u>There is a need for a new food distribution vehicle for the MFM ahead of the 2020 spring/summer season.</u></p> <p>The MFM Leadership Team has looked at several options for food distribution and is proposing to purchase a new or lightly used Grumman-style vehicle, favoured for mail delivery and food trucks due to optimal payload, durability and flexibility. The truck would be retrofitted to create a full-service, fully functional mobile market and delivery vehicle. This vehicle would serve all the Markets' needs year-round. It would also allow the MFM increased flexibility to expand to new areas of the municipality, including rural communities, add additional capacity (i.e. new delivery days/times) at existing Markets and continue to explore new services such as bulk deliveries and frozen meals.</p> <p>The total cost of a Grumman-style truck, including taxes and retrofit costs, is approximately \$134,000. The MFM Leadership Team have saved approximately \$60,000 for the purchase of a vehicle and is awaiting the results of a federal Local Food Infrastructure Fund application for an additional \$25,000. HRM's contribution would address the funding shortage and enable the Market to continue operating.</p>		

HRM's current in-kind vehicle contributions would discontinue once the new vehicle is in place, representing an estimated \$10,000 reduction in municipal contributions annually. Other in-kind contributions would continue until the municipal contributions are revisited in a future staff report coming to Council in 2020/21 on long-term municipal support of the MFM, as per Council's July 31st, 2018 motion.

Outcome Sought:

Staff report.

Mayor Mike Savage