

Request for Board of Police Commissioners Consideration

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | x | Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one working day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
|---|---|--|--|

Date of Meeting: January 15, 2025

Subject: Recommendation to Procure an Armoured Rescue Vehicle

Motion for Board of Police Commissioners to Consider:

Pursuant to the Provisions of Sections 8(2)(l) of Halifax Regional Municipality By-Law P-104, the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners hereby recommends to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), through the Municipality's capital budget process, with respect to the provisioning of the Halifax Regional Police, that the CAO undertake the appropriate investigation and procurement process as are in the CAO's discretion, with respect to the acquisition of an Armoured Rescue Vehicle for use by the Halifax Regional Police pursuant to the provisions of such policies as are adopted by the Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Board of Police Commissioners in relation thereto.

Reason(s):

1. Increasingly, the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) are called to provide public safety response to high-risk scenarios such as natural disasters, active shooter incidents, and hostage rescue operations, placing officers at high risk of personal injury.
2. Currently, the HRP relies on the RCMP to provide/support the HRP's emergency response using the RCMP's Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV), which the HRP has relied on to satisfy its employee occupational health and safety obligations. Repeatedly, the RCMP armoured rescue vehicle has been unavailable to the HRP due to RCMP operations in Nova Scotia and vehicle maintenance activities.
3. In 2023, the HRP Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to 150 events in an official capacity, 55 which were deemed critical incidents, and 46 firearms were recovered in operations conducted by the ERT. The type of firearms ranged from pistols to high-powered assault style rifles. These types of events present a high-risk of injury, including the risk of fatalities, to officers and the public. An ARV is a means of mitigating the risk of personal injury to officers and the public in these types of high-risk scenarios.

4. In 2024, the RCMP ARV has been unavailable to the HRP an average of thirty-three percent (33%).
5. In the summer of 2024, a mass shooting / rapid deployment event unfolded within city limits which was the first of its kind in the history of Halifax, necessitating the use of an ARV to affect HRP’s public safety response.
6. Many Canadian urban police forces have this type of equipment as part of its operational response capability, including Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary, Hamilton, Brandon, Barrie, and Fredericton. The majority have had this type of equipment in operation for more than a decade.
7. HRM, HRP, and the BoPC have a responsibility to provide equipment essential to the protection of officers and the public during emergencies.

If acquired through the Municipality’s capital budget process, the deployment and use of any such ARV would be subject to policies established by HRP and the Board of Police Commissioners.

Outcome Sought:

- (a) Procurement, in compliance with HRM policies and properly vetted operational requirements, of an ARV, that is fit for multi-purpose public safety response scenarios.
- (b) Establishment of HRP and the BoPC policies to govern the deployment and use of an ARV.

Commissioner

Greg O’Malley