

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@northumberland.ca or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327



Report 2025-021

Report Title: Vehicle Maintenance Cost Increases

Committee Name: Community Health

Committee Meeting Date: February 4, 2025

Prepared by: Keith Barrett
Deputy Chief of Operations
Northumberland Paramedics

Reviewed by: Susan Brown
Chief
Northumberland Paramedics

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: February 19, 2025

Strategic Plan Priorities: Innovate for Service Excellence
 Ignite Economic Opportunity
 Foster a Thriving Community
 Propel Sustainable Growth
 Champion a Vibrant Future

Information Report

That the Community Health Committee receive Report 2025-021 'Vehicle Maintenance Cost Increases' for information; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council receive this report for information."

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the increased expense of preventative maintenance, and repair costs of Northumberland Paramedics fleet.

Background

Northumberland Paramedics follow the Ministry of Health, Provincial Land Ambulance Certification Standard, LACS Section 3 – 11d (Each land ambulance and /or emergency

response vehicle used in the application / operator's service shall be maintained in a clean and sanitized condition, in safe operating condition according to manufactures specifications, and in proper working order). Each vehicle deployed by Northumberland Paramedics must be included in a preventative maintenance program. This program is regulated by mileage and is set in three (3) different categories.

“A” inspection is completed every 8,000 Km and this inspection includes but not limited to lube, oil and filter change.

“AB” inspection is completed every 24,000 Km and this inspection includes but not limited to everything included in the “A” inspection plus tire rotation, brake inspections and air filter change.

“ABC” inspection is completed every 48,000 Km and this inspection includes but not limited to everything included in the “AB” inspection plus, change transmission oil and filter, drain torque converter, change differential fluid, repack front and rear wheel bearings and check all tires.

Once a year a commercial safety inspection must be completed on all ambulances.

The cost to Northumberland County Paramedics for these maintenance inspections for 2024 can be seen in the table below.

Northumberland Paramedics Preventative Maintenance Costs

Shop price per hour	Inspection	Number of times complete 2024	Yearly cost to date	Average cost per vehicle	Average Cost per inspection	Total Yearly cost 2023	Total Yearly cost 2022
\$120	A	5	\$26,310.14	\$1143.92	\$226	33,907.60	18,881.17
\$120	AB	3	\$34,999.00	\$1,521.70	\$567.05	22,097.48	31,652.06
\$120	ABC	2	\$54,496.33	\$2,369.41	\$1,208.18	39,967.01	44,989.08
TOTAL			\$115,805.47			\$95,972.09	\$95,522.31

Upon consultation with seven (7) of the Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services, it was determined that similar increased preventative maintenance costs (see table below).

Maintenance Cost Eastern Ontario Services January 2024

Type of Service	Highest Cost	Lowest Cost	Northumberland
Shop Cost Per Hour	\$ 150	\$ 60.38	\$120.00
A Inspection	\$ 299.38	\$ 151.00	\$226.00
AB Inspection	\$ 889.15	\$ 243.00	\$567.05
ABC Inspection	\$ 1234.80	\$ 928.00	\$1208.18

Along with the cost of completing the legislative preventative maintenance of our vehicles, Northumberland Paramedics have had some unexpected expenditures with the fleet. We have had to replace 2 engines as well as 2 transmissions in 2024.

Vehicle / Year	Date	Repair	Cost
4140	Mar 2024	Engine	\$15,649.12
4143	Mar 2024	Engine	\$16,313.58
4723	May 2024	Transmission	\$10,312.47
4317	Nov 2024	Transmission	\$8101.28

In consultation with seven (7) of the Eastern Ontario Services, it was discovered that seven (7) engines, and ten (10) transmissions were also replaced amongst them. Amongst those reported, it included both the GM and Ford chassis

Consultations

Eastern Ontario Paramedic Services

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care requires that all ambulances and ERV's be compliant and certified under the Land Ambulance Certification Standard Version 5.0 dated September 28, 2021. This standard recognizes that the appropriate life span of an Ambulance is fifty-four (54) months or 250,000 km whichever comes first. Northumberland Paramedics has adopted this life span and as such replaces vehicles on that schedule as part of the Long- Term Plan.

The replacement of this equipment as per the adopted schedule enhances paramedic and patient health and safety by reducing the risk of failure when performing critical work and responding to emergency calls.

Ambulances are subject to early wear and tear due to extreme operating conditions including exposure to all types of environmental conditions during emergency call responses.

Discussion / Options

There are no options available as Braun has consolidated with Crestline and Demers and are the only recognized and certified ambulance providers in Ontario.

Financial Impact

Delays in receiving our yearly order new ambulances, which could be anywhere between 16 – 18 months, increase maintenance and repair costs, maintaining older vehicles beyond the standard that recognizes that the appropriate life span of an Ambulance is fifty-four (54) months or 250,000 kms whichever comes first.

Increased “lost hours” of vehicles and replacements waiting for lengthy repairs and replacement parts.

Member Municipality Impacts

Potential for breakdowns of ambulances when responding to an emergency call.

Conclusion / Outcomes

Staff request that the Community Health Committee and County Council receive this report for information.

Attachments

N/A