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Report 2025-038

Report Title: Replacement of the Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) Required

Committee Name: Community Health

Committee Meeting Date: March 4, 2025

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Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: March 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, having considered Report 2025-038 ‘Replacement of the required Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) Required’, recommend that County Council approve the replacement of the AVL’s within the 2025 budget, and authorize the utilization of the Paramedic Capital Reserve if required for any portion.”

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Community Health Committee and Council of the necessity to update / replace the current automatic vehicle locators (AVL) units in our

ambulances and emergency response vehicles (ERV's). Our current AVL units are running on the 3G network.

Northumberland Paramedics have received information that Rogers will be sunsetting their 3G network towers on July 31, 2025. After this date any device using 3G network, which Northumberland Paramedics AVL – (ACETECH) units currently do, will no longer be supported. For this reason, Northumberland Paramedics must upgrade all our Ambulances and Emergency Response Units with the updated 5G units.

We currently have 11 ambulances and 4 current ERV's that require updating. Challenges of replacing outdated ACETECH AVL units in our Ambulances.

Background

The replacement cycle of our ambulances and ERV's are on a 5-year cycle, historically we have re-used our AVL units as a cost saving measure when receiving a replacement vehicle. It is at this time, through technological advancements of the units and the supporting network and towers that our current units will become obsolete as of July 31, 2025.

The AVL we utilize is Acetech, an advanced vehicle intelligence module that is designed for the complex emergency services market. It is used to monitor and track via GPS and GNSS-the ambulances and ERV's based on location tracking. This information is visible to dispatch and allows for real-time decision making in assigning closest units to emergency calls.

The AVL interface actively monitors speed, utilization of emergency warning systems (lights and/or siren), utilization of the vehicle (braking forces, and G forces), health of the vehicle (battery levels, ECO mode times, idling limits, gas consumption, temperature), are just some examples of the many features.

AVL feeds data in real-time back to the Acetech Vehicle Intelligence cloud-based platform, providing deeper insights and intelligence. It is a key performance measure for many of the operations key performance indicators (KPI's), safety of our crews, maintenance and repairs, and investigative data with accidents and or complaints. AVL allows us to utilize our vehicles in the most effective and efficient manner.

Consultations

Acetech

Rogers

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

AVL feed and data is a requirement of the Central Ambulance Communications Centers (CACC's) operated by the Ministry with 50% funding available.

Discussion / Options

N/A

Financial Impact

We have upgraded our four (4) ambulances ordered in 2024, and our one (1) ERV in 2024, so the remaining AVL units to replace is 15. The cost per unit is \$2,200, plus non recoverable HST with 50% of the costs covered by provincial 50:50 funding in 2026.

Northumberland Paramedics will attempt to manage these costs within the 2025 Budget, if unable to absorb we would request to utilize existing purchase savings in the Paramedic Capital Reserve up to the full amount if required.

	Cost per unit	Total Cost
Ambulances (11)	\$2,200	\$24,200
ERV's (4)	\$2,200	\$8,800
Total		\$33,000
Non recoverable HST		\$580.80
		\$33,580.80
Provincial Funding (50%)		\$16,790.40

Member Municipality Impacts

Equally impacted by the replacement necessity.

Conclusion / Outcomes

Staff recommend and request the immediate replacement/upgrade of the current AVL Acetech units. Northumberland Paramedics will attempt to manage these costs within the 2025 Budget, if unable to absorb completely we would request pre- approval to utilize existing purchase savings in the Paramedic Capital Reserve up to the full amount if required.

Attachments

N/A