



# Town Council Meeting

February 18, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, Town Hall

359 Main Street

## Agenda

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### Call to Order and Land Acknowledgements

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Town Council Meeting, January 28, 2025

**4. Community Events, Occasions & Acknowledgements**

*Mayor & councillors may recognize recent or upcoming events, occasions & acknowledgements that are of interest to the Town and residents*

**5. Public Input / Question Period**

PLEASE NOTE:

- *Individual members of the public may make comments and ask questions for up to 5 minutes.*
- *Questions or comments are to be directed to the Chair.*
- *Comments and questions that relate to personnel, current or potential litigation issues, or planning issues for which a public hearing has already occurred, but no decision has been made by Council, will not be answered.*

**6. Motions/Recommendations from Committee of the Whole,  
February 4, 2025:**

- a. RFD 003-2025: Aerial Fire Truck



## 7. Regular Meeting Adjourned

## REQUEST FOR DECISION 003-2025

Title: Wolfville Fire – Aerial Fire Truck

Date: 2025-03-03

Department: Wolfville Fire Department

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## SUMMARY

### Aerial Fire Truck Replacement

The council had initially approved a budget of \$2 million to replace the aging 2001 Tower 41 Aerial Fire Truck as part of the capital replacement plan. However, due to significant market fluctuations—driven by rising material and labor costs, supply chain disruptions, and currency devaluation—the cost of acquiring a new aerial fire truck has increased substantially. The current estimated cost for the replacement truck is now \$3.3 million, requiring an additional \$1.3 million to fulfill the updated budget. This increase reflects ongoing price escalation and the need to secure a truck that meets modern safety, regulatory, and operational standards.

#### **DRAFT MOTION:**

That Council approve an increase in the capital budget from \$2 million to \$3.3 million for the replacement of the 2001 Tower 41 aerial fire truck.

That Council direct staff to proceed with the development of a tender, in accordance with the Town's Procurement Policy 140-001, to solicit bids from qualified vendors for the purchase of the new Aerial Fire Truck.

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### 1) CAO COMMENTS

The CAO supports the recommendations of the Wolfville Fire Department. The aerial fire truck is an essential piece of equipment for the Town's current and future fire protection service. There is no indication that either price or delivery timeframes will improve soon. The benefits of purchasing a new apparatus outweigh the anticipated savings offered by one of the other options over the long-term.

### 2) LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- Fire Services Agreement, 2005
- MGA

### 3) STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the council approve the recommendation of the Wolfville Fire Department and provide an additional \$1.3 million to replace the 2001 Tower 41 Aerial Fire Truck.

### 4) REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS

1. Procurement Policy 140-001

### 5) DISCUSSION

#### **Why is replacement necessary?**

##### ***Aging equipment***

The 2001 Tower 41 Aerial Fire Truck is approaching the end of its life span (25 years).

##### ***Need for compliance with modern safety and emission standards***

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1900, 2024 edition; Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC); 2027 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) compliant.

#### **Why the increase in capital budget?**

***Market price escalation:*** Demand exceeds supply in North America. Rapidly escalating material and labour costs, estimated to be up +30%. The 2018 price review in 10 yr capital plan was \$2m, reviewed in April 2024 and revised to \$3m, reviewed Jan 2025 and now \$3.3m.

***Currency devaluation:*** All aerial apparatus are manufactured in U.S., Canadian dollar value has decreased versus USD

***Enhanced features for safety and efficiency:*** Revised to *Quint* (shorthand for five functions that this truck provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders) with 600-gallon water capacity.

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### **What are the Key Benefits of the new truck?**

#### ***Enhanced response capabilities***

Allows for a faster set up in a smaller footprint, with ability to be placed in tighter or more constrained spaces.

Offers greater lateral stability, especially when the aerial ladder is extended to extreme heights or loads, reducing the risk of tipping.

More effective on uneven or sloped terrain, allows for better leveling.

#### ***Operational & Environmental Efficiency***

Lower maintenance and repair expenses over the vehicle's lifespan; less down time.

Improved fuel efficiency, lower emissions.

The accompanying aluminum ladder is lighter weight, more durable, less prone to corrosion current steel ladder.

Advanced stabilization systems, improved hydraulics, improved braking and enhanced operator controls allows for greater safety.

There is also improved visibility and lighting.

#### ***Supports Town growth and development***

There were approximately 250 calls for service in 2024; 271 in 2023. IT is anticipated that call demand will increase due to growth in Town and surrounding areas. Preparedness for increase in multi-level, multi-unit dwellings is necessary.

#### ***Meets Current and Future Standards***

A new truck will ensure compliance with regulations, preventing the need for costly retrofits or upgrades that would be necessary to bring an older truck up to various codes.

#### ***Enhanced Public Safety***

A modern, reliable fire truck will help ensure that emergency responses are quicker and more effective, which can directly impact the safety and well-being of the public. A new truck with updated equipment, systems and improved maneuverability can provide faster, more effective firefighting operations.

#### ***Public Confidence***

Operating a fleet of modern fire trucks signals to the community that their safety is a priority and that the fire department is equipped with the best available tools to protect them.

### **Why a New Truck versus Used?**

In addition to the above benefits, buying new is better for the long term for the following reasons:

#### ***Built to our specific needs and preparing for growing Wolfville demands***

With very few used ladders available in North America, it will compromise key needs for our desired operation and safety (i.e. reach, set-up configuration, safety features/compliance, etc.). As a *Quint* it allows capacity for this apparatus to be a front run truck and optimize usage.

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### ***Reliability***

An older used truck is more likely to experience mechanical issues due to wear and tear, which can be costly and increase the risk of a truck being out of service when needed. A new truck provides peace of mind, knowing that it's less likely to encounter major issues and avoids refurbishment costs.

### ***Warranty and extended service life***

The new ladder has a lifetime warranty and would require minimal maintenance costs for the first 15 years. With no previous fire service, we maximize the life of the truck to potentially 30 years after one refurbishment.

### ***Ready for Future Standards***

Investing in a new truck ensures that the vehicle will meet future safety, emission, and performance standards without needing costly upgrades or retrofitting to meet evolving codes.

### **Conclusion:**

Replacing the aging 2001 Tower 41 aerial truck is essential for maintaining operational readiness, safety, and compliance with evolving regulations. The current truck is nearing the end of its service life, with rising maintenance costs and an inability to meet new standards such as NFPA 1900 (2024), ULC, and the 2027 EPA requirements.

Given the sharp rise in material, labour, and currency costs, along with supply chain challenges, replacement now is more cost-effective for the long run. The updated price reflects current market conditions, but the investment will enhance response capabilities, improve safety, and boost operational efficiency. The new truck, featuring a lighter aluminum ladder, advanced stabilization systems, and better fuel and emissions efficiency, will lower maintenance costs, reduce downtime, and support the growing demand for fire services in our growing Town & service area. This replacement underscores the Town's commitment to public safety, ensuring the Fire Department is equipped to meet both current and future needs.

## **6) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is planned to utilize 100% of the Capital Reserve for fire equipment at time of purchase for the new aerial fire truck. It is forecasted that the Capital Reserve for fire equipment will have a balance of approximately \$2 million in the planned purchase year 2028-29. If approved, an additional \$1.3 million will need to be funded through long-term debt. Any resale value of the 2001 ladder truck shall aid in offsetting the long-term debt requirement.

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### 7) REFERENCES TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN AND TOWN REPORTS

- Part of the Municipal Planning Strategy MPS Strategy, part 7.7, 'Police, Fire Protection, and Regional Emergency Management' that it shall be the policy of council:
  1. To continue to support effective police, fire, and emergency services for the Town.
- Climate – reducing carbon emissions by meeting 2027 EPA standards
- Future Developments – proactive response to the housing increases, types of developments and changing needs of the community

### 8) COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

None required at this time.

### 9) ALTERNATIVES

#### A. Refurbish the current 2001 Tower 41 Aerial Fire Truck

This option could only be done by the manufacturer in the U.S. (Pierce) and would be exceptionally costly and time consuming as it is a steel ladder with limited parts availability. The truck would have to be transported to the U.S. and would be out of service for an undetermined amount of time. As demand for new trucks exceeds supply in the market this would not be a priority project for the manufacturer.

#### B. Procure a used ladder truck

Supply at North America's largest used dealer (based in U.S.) is very limited for our needs and thus prices are also up. Current estimates are around \$1.8 million Canadian, and most trucks are more than 10+ years old. Prior to being put into service it would need to be refurbished to meet our standards which could be another \$400,000-\$600,000 depending on needs to make it compliant.

#### C. Lease vs. Buying

There are currently no leasing options in Canada that we are aware of. We reached out to the main dealers for the manufacturers who said this option is not available.

#### D. Delay the purchase.

Risks include further increased costs and potential operational failures.

If the order is placed this year, we have been advised that manufacturing lead times are 3 to 3.5 years from order approval to delivery receipt. This will put our current apparatus further outside of the NFPA standard due to long manufacturing and supply timing.