

The Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley

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June 24, 2024

Re: Resolution to exempt Emergency Vehicles from Emission Standards

At its regular council meeting of June 19, 2024, the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley reviewed correspondence. This letter is to advise that Council voted in support of this correspondence with the following resolution:

*24.106 MOVED BY **Brent Patrick**
 Merv Buckwald
 SECONDED BY*

WHEREAS By-Law 2013-017 is a by-law to establish and regulate a Fire Department for the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley;

AND WHEREAS fire vehicles and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services, authorized by Council in By-Law 2013-017, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire vehicles and equipment are governed by industry best practices and the application of law, including the National Fire Protection Association Standards, the Environmental Protection Act and On-Road Vehicle and Engine Emission Regulations;

AND WHEREAS no funding is available for new trucks and small and rural municipalities must meet the same as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

AND WHEREAS the cost of fire vehicles and equipment along with the cost to heat our halls and fuel our trucks is becoming prohibitive for volunteer services, which account for the majority of firefighters in Canada;

AND WHEREAS fire departments are also challenged with fewer volunteers to help raise money at a time when the cost and demand of equipment is rising and the supply of fire apparatus including fire trucks is shrinking due to raw materials and finished material supply chain delays, along with labour shortages which are preventing the truck manufacturers from ramping up production and meeting their production costs;

AND WHEREAS these green initiatives and standards have removed the industries go to motor, the Cummins L9 which has increased the price of the chassis as much as \$25,000.00 which will continue to increase under the 2027 EPA standards for diesel engines which will see the Cummings L9 replaced with the new generation X10, which is 2027 EPA compliant but will cost up to \$100,000 more just for the new engine and technology which historically has proven to be unreliable;

AND WHEREAS Freightliners with the Cummings L9 have run out of carbon credits in Canada meaning these trucks can not be sold in Canada if the L9 engine was produced after May 31/2023;

AND WHEREAS many of the Freightliners that are built have the L9, all these trucks manufactured are unavailable for use in Canada, creating a Canadian supply issue;

AND WHEREAS most Ontario and Canadian municipalities currently have the L9s in their fleet of trucks, including roads and fire departments just to illustrate the how popular this engine and set up is for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the cost of heating our halls, fueling our vehicles and the purchase of Fire Trucks will continue to increase at a predicted rate of at least 12% per year. This could mean a 60% increase over the next 5 years;

AND WHEREAS any apparatus over 20 years of age significantly impacts our insurance grade leading to additional insurance costs for our residents through their personal insurance if our department is unable to sustain a high enough rating;

AND WHEREAS we currently have two Pumpers that are less than 20 years of age. One is turning 20 next year and the other is turning 20 in 2032 which will impact the township's insurance rating should we decide not to purchase a replacement truck in the next 5 years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in these times of financial uncertainty, costly mandates such as the emission standards should be rolled back and reviewed for emergency vehicles to confirm realistic timelines, reliability of new technology and reduce the impacts on the supply chain and cost to the public to ensure success;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs and The *Honourable Steven Guilbeault* Minister of Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, *Jagmeet Singh*, Leader of the New Democratic Party and MP Cheryl Gallant;

AND FINALLY RESOLVE THAT this resolution be shared with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all municipalities within Renfrew County.

Carried

I trust you will find this satisfactory, but if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Annette Gilchrist, CMO., AOMC
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Township of Bonnechere Valley