



# ISSUE PAPER

## Fire

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**Budget Year:** 2026

**Issue Paper No.:** FIRE-02-26

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**Description:** Fire Pumper Replacement

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**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council receive budget issue paper FIRW-02-26 for information.

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**Background:**

The Cramahe Fire Department has lost six vehicles in the last five years due to age, corrosion and mechanical issues. Of the six vehicles that were removed from service, only three have been replaced. The Fire Department still requires a replacement for pumper 871 which was removed from the fleet in April 2024.

During the annual safety inspection for the upcoming year on Pumper 871, it was discovered to have major corrosion in the frame making the pumper uncertifiable. Due to the high financial cost of the repairs needed to fix the pumper and the age (Year Built 2003), the decision was made to have it removed from service prior to the expected retirement date of 2025 (as identified within the Asset Management Plan)

The removal of the five-seat pumper from the fleet has created a critical gap in our emergency response capability. This apparatus provided the seating and equipment capacity necessary to deploy a full crew safely and efficiently. Its absence increases response times, limits on-scene staffing, and elevates firefighter safety risks by potentially requiring crews to operate below recommended personnel levels.

With Pumper 871 out of service, Pumper 872 was relocated to Station 2 (Castleton) to be the current front-line pumper. This pumper is not designed to work as a rural fire truck due to the restrictive hose bed layout and lack of storage capacity; however the fire department has been making do. With the replacement of Pumper 871, Pumper 872 would be an acceptable reserve pumper and used as a backup pumper when needed.

## **Consultations/Options:**

The Township of Cramahe Fire Master Plan 2024, *16.0 Asset Management, Table 26 Proposed fire fleet and replacement schedule for Cramahe* indicates that the next apparatus in need of replacement would be Pump 871 and replaced in 2025, as it is currently out of service and in need of replacement.

The current Industry standard “best practice” for first line pumper replacement is a 15-year service life. The organizations that speak to this standard are: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Fire Underwrites Survey of Canada (FUS).

NFPA 1901 the Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus; Annex D- the Guideline for replacement of first line and reserve fire apparatus highlights are as follows;

- Intended to maximize fire fighter capabilities and minimize risk of injuries
- Fire apparatus should be equipped with the latest safety features and operating capabilities
- Apparatus more than 15 years old might include only a few of the safety upgrades required by the current editions of the NFPA Standards
- Because the changes, upgrades, and fine tuning to NFPA 1901 have been truly significant, especially in the area of safety, fire departments should seriously consider the value (or risk) to fire fighters of keeping fire apparatus more than 15 years old in first-line service.
- It is recommended that apparatus more than 15 years old that have been properly maintained and that are still in serviceable condition be placed in reserve status

The Fire Underwriters Survey- Technical Bulletin highlights fire apparatus replacement as follows:

- Fire Apparatus should respond to first alarms for the first fifteen years of service
- For the next five years, it should be held in reserve status for use at major fires or used as a temporary replacement for out-of-service first line apparatus
- Apparatus should be retired from service at twenty years of age

## **Financial Impact:**

The cost to purchase a pumper is \$750,000 and it is recommended to borrow these funds over a 10-to-15-year period.

## **Risk Considerations:**

Cramahe Fire Station 2 (Castleton) is relying on a truck that is not adequate for rural firefighting due to a limited storage capacity and restricted fire hose layout. This pumper is also at its age limit for service as a front-line pumper.

Purchasing a truck similar to pumper 870 (which was recently purchased in 2024) will greatly improve reliability and function on the fire ground. This would increase seating

capacity, equipment storage and water capacity needed to effectively respond to fire incidents in a rural setting.

**Connection to Strategic Plan:**

This meets the strategic plan goal of ensuring that infrastructure assets meet the emerging needs of our growing community.

**Alignment with the Strategic Plan Pillar:**

Growth Through Diversity

Ensuring that infrastructure assets meet the emerging needs of our growing community

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