

Dear council members,

Recently while returning from a call, our tanker's motor failed. On investigation with our mechanic we sadly discovered that our aging truck was not worth fixing. In the fall of 2022 our fleet of trucks consisted of a 1990 Heavy Rescue, 1990 Tanker, and 1993 pumper. At this time, we bid on a tanker truck which Kentville Fire Department had put out for closed tender. We were outbid by \$50,000. After looking for several months for a replacement truck we found a 2009 pumper in the Spring of 2023 that we could afford. We had to go to Georgia to find something that was within our budget. This was also in US dollars which brought the price up considerably but it was the only replacement that we could find that would fit in our hall and met the criteria we had set out. We are up to \$140,000 Canadian dollars to get this truck on the road and outfitted.

The decision was made to replace the pumper first as it was the truck that needed the most repair. The plan was to purchase a tanker in 2027. We have been accumulating funds with this in mind.

In the spring of 2024 we were presented with an offer from K&D Pratt that if we purchased SCBA packs they would supply a free spare bottle with each pack. The decision was made to purchase 5 packs which cost us \$56,000 instead of \$65,000. We currently have \$50,000 in our Truck Saving Account.

Our annual Levy for 2024 is \$109,000 our Budgeted operating expenses are \$106,000. We received a grant from the municipality for \$10,000. Projected revenue from fundraising is \$40,000. This includes the Firefighters 50/50 draw.

We are currently looking for a 15-20 year-old truck but with our limited cash flow I am afraid we would not be able to secure a loan large enough to accomplish this. There are special needs to consider. We need a truck that fits in our current hall. It has to have a pump and a large amount of water on board. As we look online at all the online sites- both in Canada and the US- any trucks that are available are coming in at around \$250,000 to \$300,000 Canadian dollars. We continue to look at all sites daily.

As we look at options we realize even if we are able to take out a loan we still need to be able to make the payment. The Volunteer fire service in rural communities is a service that all community members want to have available. We have half of our members sitting at level one firefighter status or above. We have an interior attack crew that works with all our surrounding departments. We maintain all of our own equipment within the current budget that we receive to from the municipality. We are reaching out for any financial assistance that might be available to help us replace our truck and to continue to meet the needs of our area.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request. If you have any other suggestions to help us gain the funding required please communicate them to us.

Sincerely

Doug Cox

Chief for Gore District Volunteer Fire Department