

Maitland and District Volunteer Fire Department

8802 Hwy 215
Maitland NS B0N 1T0

Municipality of East Hants
PO Box 230, Suite 170
Elmsdale NS B2S3K5
C/O aclarkson@easthants.ca

Dear Council Members;

The Maitland and District Volunteer Fire Department (MDVFD) has been serving the people of Maitland and surrounding communities along Hwy 215 for over 50 years. We are proud of our service, responding to structure and wildland fires, medical emergencies, and motor vehicle accidents with the knowledge that the nearest ambulance or major centre services are over 30 minutes away.

In addition to maintaining a team of well trained volunteers ready to respond to emergency calls MDVFD, along with our Auxiliary, has been responsible for raising funds from our community to support the ongoing purchase of new equipment including fire and pumper trucks. We have each of our three emergency response vehicles on a schedule for replacement that allows us to replace one piece of equipment once every six to seven years based on performance, maintenance costs and insurance advice.

The last vehicle replaced was our Tanker in 2019. During our robust procurement process we discovered that standard emergency vehicles were too long for the size of our firehall bays. Ultimately, we had to have that truck custom built at great additional expense. In addition, we had to replace the bay doors to accommodate the new truck. With this experience behind us we were aware of what we might face in the future. We have exhausted options for expanding our Firehall Bays or moving our Firehall to an alternative location and building new. Costly custom truck replacements are our only option if we are to continue serving the people of our district.

Currently MDVFD we are in the process of preparing to replace our **main engine/pumper truck** which has exceeded its age for functional use. As per our procurement process, we have received and reviewed quotes from three suppliers who are able to accommodate our custom size needs and have selected a preferred supplier and product. The total cost at the time of the estimate received is \$635,000.

We have been fundraising and currently saved a significant amount for our truck replacement fund, our facility enhancement and maintenance fund. However, as with all our past truck replacements, the MDVFD aims to have a substantial enough downpayment to ensure any monthly payments are manageable within our operational budget. In order to achieve this, we have identified a critical funding gap.

With the full support of our Councillor, Keith Rhyno, we are requesting Municipal support for the purchase of this replacement main engine/pumper truck in the amount of \$150,000.

We would be pleased to meet with the Municipality to review our procurement plans and answer any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(electronically signed)

Warren Yuill
Chief, Maitland and District Volunteer Fire Department