

M&C No.	2020- 016
Report Date	January 03, 2020
Meeting Date	January 13, 2020
Service Area	Public Safety Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

***SUBJECT: Fire Light Vehicle Response Medical Calls – Sustainability Item***

***OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION***

This matter is to be discussed in open session of Common Council.

***AUTHORIZATION***

Primary Authors	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<b><i>Josh Hennessy/ Robert Nichol</i></b>	<b><i>Kevin Clifford</i></b>	<b><i>John Collin</i></b>

***RECOMMENDATION***

The City Manager recommends that Common Council:

Endorse the proposed Fire Light Vehicle Response Medical Calls – Sustainability Item as an option to be considered in addressing the entirety of the deficit in 2021 and 2022.

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The City of Saint John Fire and Rescue Service focusses on reducing the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, or impact on the environment caused by fire, accident, medical emergency, or hazardous materials release. Service includes:

- Fire Rescue and Suppression
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response
- Fire Prevention
- Fire Investigation
- Medical First Responder

The service uses a blend of heavy apparatus (Engines, Rescues, Ladder Towers, and Quints) and light apparatus depending on the service provided.

Given the City's sustainability challenges, this report proposes that light fleet units be used instead of heavy apparatus to respond to the Medical First Responder service.

## ***PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS***

On October 7, 2019, it was resolved by Council to receive and file M&C 2019-249: 'Sustainability: Addressing the Deficit 2021-2022'.

## ***REPORT***

The Saint John Fire Service responds to approximately 3,500 medical first responder calls annually. Currently, fire crews respond with heavy apparatus to medical first responder calls. Heavy units provide greater flexibility for operational crews as more resources are available to them pending another call for a different type of service (ie. Fire Rescue and Suppression) after they are deployed.

Using heavy apparatus for medical calls is more expensive than using light response units, particularly when used for medical calls where the full resources of heavy apparatus are not required. However, if a light unit is deployed there is risk of not being able to respond as efficiently if a non-medical emergency incident comes in that would require the full resources of a heavy apparatus. There could be a delay in response to that incident which may require the full resources of a heavy apparatus.

The light units that could be assigned to this initiative would be pulled from the Fire Service's current fleet, therefore requiring no upfront investment.

Given the current economic outlook for the City, it is recommend that a minimum of two light response units be used for medical response in higher demand response zones for the Medical First Responder service.

## ***STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT***

The savings realized by implementing the 'Fire Light Vehicle Response Medical Calls – Sustainability Item' supports Council's priority to be Fiscally Responsible by contributing to the overall Sustainability effort.

## ***SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES***

All sustainability initiatives have been evaluated against criteria based on Council's Priorities and ability to implement to address the deficit of 2021 and 2022. In addition to Feasibility, criteria include Growth & Prosperity; Vibrant, Safe City; Valued Service Delivery; and Fiscally Responsible (see Initiative Criteria Evaluation Appendix).

This item is potentially feasible to implement; however, there are a number of complexities for this item.

The current use of heavy apparatus does provide a higher level of service at an increased cost. When 'Valued Service Delivery' is being considered for this initiative it should be understood that the proposed model is a less expensive model that could increase response times for calls other than medical first responder; thus decreasing the service level.

Implementation of this item has a forecasted annual savings of approximately \$20,000. Further to this savings; the life cycle of heavy apparatus will be extended and those financial benefits could be realized in the longer term.

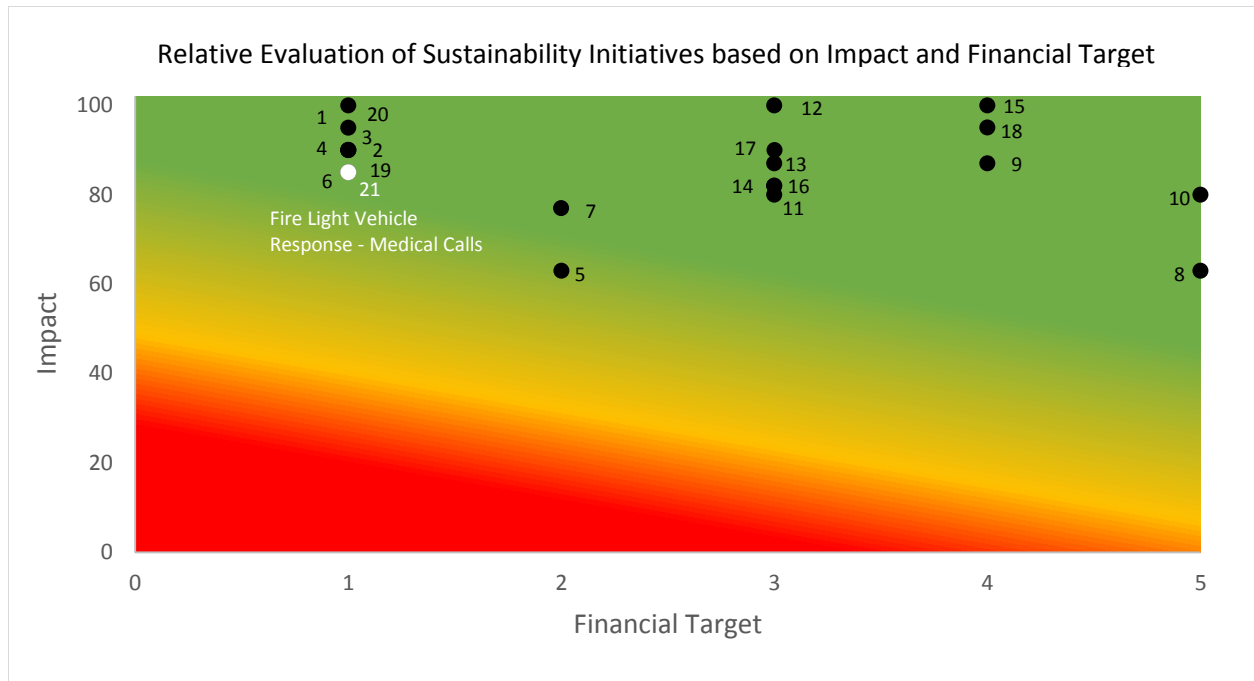
## ***INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS***

Input for this report was provided by the staff of the from the following service areas;

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Fleet Services
- Fire Service
- Sustainability Initiatives Team

## ATTACHMENTS

### Appendix: Initiative Criteria Evaluation



Evaluation Notes on Fire Light Vehicle Response – Medical Calls:  
There are minor impacts to service delivery and potential challenges with feasibility.

*Note: Evaluated initiatives that fall within the yellow and green areas should be considered as options to address the 2021 and 2022 deficit. Initiatives that fall close to the red should only be considered if there are no other options to address the deficit.*

#### Sustainability Initiatives Evaluated as of January 13, 2020 (Not including Continuous Improvement Items)

1. Passport to Parks
2. Lifeguards (*Not added to hopper*)
3. Rightsizing Recreation Facilities - Rainbow Park Ice Surface
4. Rightsizing Recreation Facilities - Seaside Park Lawn Bowling
5. Playground Program
6. Fire Service Fee Recovery
7. Permit and Development Approval Fees Increases
8. Grants & Incentives
9. Growth Reserve Fund
10. Non-Resident Differential Parking Fees
11. Monthly Parking Increase
12. Parking Ticket Increases
13. On-Street Parking Increase
14. Recreation Subsidies
15. Winter Street Maintenance
16. Economic Development Agency Funding
17. Arena Closure
18. Freeze CPI Adjustments for Inflation
19. Adelaide Street Facility (*Not yet presented*)
20. Goods & Services Budget for Mayor & Council
21. Fire Light Vehicle Response - Medical Calls