

Clause No. 10 in Report No. 1 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on January 23, 2014.

**10**  
**DONATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
**DECOMMISSIONED AMBULANCES FOR 2013**

**Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated December 13, 2013 from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services:**

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize the donation of one York Region Emergency Medical Services ambulance that was decommissioned from service in 2013.
2. The guidelines and procedures relating to the donation of ambulance vehicles be amended to allow donation of up to 25% surplus vehicles, provided the value of those vehicles does not exceed \$15,000.

**2. PURPOSE**

This report seeks approval for the donation of one decommissioned Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance to the Friends of Ecuador humanitarian organization, which is a not-for-profit company. Friends of Ecuador assists recognized charitable organizations throughout Ecuador.

**3. BACKGROUND**

**Council approved guidelines and procedures in evaluating decommissioned EMS vehicle donation requests**

On February 17, 2011, Council approved Clause No. 6 of Report No. 2 of the Community and Health Services Committee adopting guidelines and procedures for evaluating donation requests.

The guidelines and procedures are as follows:

### **Guidelines**

- 1) A maximum of 25% of the decommissioned surplus vehicles may be donated in any given calendar year.
- 2) Donations will only occur to registered not-for-profit, community or international humanitarian organizations of sound repute and generally aligned with the services supported by York Region.
- 3) Preference, in order of priority, will be as follows:
  - a) Regional or local uses
  - b) Provincial/Federal/International Relief or other organizations
- 4) Organizations must also follow general guidelines, as outlined with the Community Investment Strategy that relate to not being affiliated with a political or religious organization and must adhere to and support the Human Rights Code.

### **Procedures:**

- 1) A report will be forwarded for Council approval each time a request has been received that complies with the guidelines for donation.
- 2) Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation.
- 3) Prior to accepting the donation, the organization will be required to acknowledge, in writing, that The Regional Municipality of York makes no representations or warranties regarding the vehicle and that they are assuming ownership on an “as is” basis.

Friends of Ecuador have met all of the above conditions as per the guidelines and their form has been signed by a person having authority to do so for the requesting organization, namely Dr. Paul W. Roberts, Honorary Consul of Ecuador in Toronto.

## **4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS**

### **Auction values of decommissioned ambulances varied over the last 2 years**

Emergency Medical Services decommissioned 10 ambulances in 2013. Under the existing guidelines this would result in a maximum of two ambulances being available for donation under Council guidelines.

When the original guidelines were developed, the value of a surplus vehicle was \$3,000 to \$5,000 and was considered nominal for a Region like York. Given past practice of supplying vehicles for humanitarian purposes, a \$6,000 to \$10,000 “donation” of a vehicle was felt to be a gesture of good will and manageable as a revenue loss. However, in 2012, the rate for a surplus was three times the amount averaging between \$13,000 and \$15,000. In 2013, the average value at auction was just under \$6,000. Given the variation of the values from year to year, the addition to the guidelines of a maximum total vehicle value of \$15,000 based on the current average in-year auction value, maintains the original guideline scope while allowing for the accurate budgeting of forgone revenues.

### **EMS will be undertaking a comprehensive review of fleet asset lifecycle processes in 2014**

Traditionally, vehicle lifecycles have been determined by historical fleet maintenance practices that were adopted during the downloading of EMS to the Region in 2000. EMS will be engaging consultant services to review and analyse all fleet asset practices to optimize total life-cycle costs. This may result in changes to acquisition and retirement guidelines and further adjustments to the donation of surplus vehicles policy

### **One request that met the Council’s guidelines for decommissioned ambulances was received in the last twelve months**

Friends of Ecuador was started by returned volunteers who served in the Peace Corps. As of March 18, 2004, Friends of Ecuador became a non-profit company, and is eligible to receive tax deductible donations.

Dr. Paul W. Roberts, Honorary Consul of Ecuador in Toronto, has submitted a formal request on behalf of the Friends of Ecuador (Ontario) which is registered as an Ontario numbered company. The ambulance is needed to supply life-saving service for their area administered by the hospital in the municipality of Salinas, Ecuador. More specifically, it is their intent to use it to transport seniors who make up the majority of the population in Anconcito Parish.

Previously, the donation to the Friends of Ecuador of an ambulance, with supplies and equipment, was authorized by Council on May 24, 2007 (Clause No. 3 in Report No. 3 of the Health and Emergency Medical Services Committee was adopted, without amendment). A letter from the Consulado General del Ecuador in Toronto (see *Attachment 1*) was translated and attached to the request form Dr. Paul W. Roberts submitted to York Region EMS. Though photos were mentioned, they were not attached.

As of November 20, 2013, there has not been any information that would indicate that further requests for donations of decommissioned Emergency Medical Services ambulances will be forthcoming.

### **Link to key Council-approved plans**

While there is no link to Council-approved plans, this report is consistent with the Council-approved policy for decommissioned Emergency Medical Services ambulances.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If it is not being donated, a decommissioned EMS ambulance is sold at auction. The proceeds from the auction for the most recent similar vehicle were just under \$6,000 on average per vehicle. The net values of a decommissioned ambulance can be expected to be between \$3,000 to \$15,000 dependent upon the vehicle's condition, mileage and demand.

The total foregone revenues for this ambulance may be approximately \$15,000 and this has been factored into 2014 budget estimates for the EMS branch. Any expense for shipping, permits, and related costs will be covered by the organization receiving the donation. There is no added expense to the Region. It is the responsibility of the receiving organization to inspect and prepare the ambulances for use in accordance with local regulation.

## **6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT**

A partnership with community agencies such as the Friends of Ecuador (Ontario) enhances the rapport York Region builds with the diverse cultures that populate the Region.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

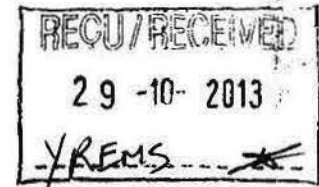
The donation of one decommissioned ambulance will support the efforts of Anconcito Parish in the Municipality of Salinas and its hospital in Ecuador, to safely transport seniors, as well as other patients whose lives could be at risk should medical care not be administered in a timely manner.

It is recommended that Council authorize the donation of one decommissioned ambulance to the Friends of Ecuador (Ontario).

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, Chief and General Manager of Emergency Medical Services, at Ext. 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

*Attachment (1)*



**CONSULADO GENERAL DEL ECUADOR**  
**151 Bloor Street West, Suite 450 Toronto, M5S1S4, Canadá**  
**Tel ( 416) 968 2077 Fax ( 416) 968 3348**  
**Email :**

Toronto, October 26, 2013

**Free translation of attached document.**

**Letterhead of the Self-Governing Decentralized  
Municipality of Salinas  
Salinas, 17 September 2-13**

Dr Paul Roberts  
President, Friends of Ecuador

Please receive a cordial greeting, as well as my best wishes for the wonderful work of the Committee that you lead.

First of all, we send our gratitude for reading this document, Dr. Roberts, in order to help the most needy communities. In regard to your last letter to us in which you requested more information about the Rehabilitation Center for Disabled Children in Santa Rosa, I'm glad to tell you that this Center serves approximately 200 disabled children. The Center comprises an area of approximately 70 square metres plus offices and treatment rooms, and an outside area for recreation. The equipment that we actually use consists of one electric walker, one electric bicycle, one wooden ladder, and basic tools to help increase movement and muscle stimulation of these boys and girls.

As a Municipality, we assist these children with financial grants for nutrition and medical needs.

**HERE FOLLOW EIGHT PICTURES:**



In regard to our request for an ambulance to transport seniors who make up the majority of the population in Anconcito Parish: in this Parish there is a Fire Department with only one fire engine. In medical emergencies they have to request an ambulance from another Parish approximately 12 kilometres away, which means that the wait time will be at least 10 minutes for arrival plus 10 more

minutes to take the patient to the nearest hospital, which delay puts the lives of our citizens at risk.

We reiterate that we will be responsible for the different charges which occur in relation to storage, customs, transportation and any other related expenses.

We thank you once again for the important help that you are giving to benefit the older people in our community, and I thank you with great gratitude.

Sincerely,

*Signed*

Dennis Cordova Secaira  
Vice-Mayor of Self-Governing Decentralized Municipality of Salinas

Translated by  
Dr Paul W Roberts  
Honorary Consul of Ecuador in Toronto