



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Donation of Decommissioned Ambulances

Date:	December 4, 2008
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval for Toronto Emergency Medical Services to donate two decommissioned ambulances to the City of Soyapango, El Salvador, for use in humanitarian purposes. This follows Council's previous approval, in December 2007, for the donation of one decommissioned ambulance to Soyapango, as part of the technical partnership between Toronto and Soyapango, under the umbrella of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Toronto EMS ambulance life-cycle process results in the replacement of thirty ambulances annually. Many of these vehicles have a number of years of service still available for purposes other than emergency response. The overall value of the benefit to Soyapango will far surpass the relative market value of the revenues received by the City of Toronto through the normal auction disposal process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that City Council:

- (1) authorize Toronto EMS to donate two of its decommissioned ambulances, vehicles that would normally go to auction, at no cost to the City of Soyapango, El Salvador.

Financial Impact

Each decommissioned ambulance sold at the City's public auction normally generates revenues averaging between \$6,000 to \$10,000 per vehicle. These revenues (auction

proceeds) are deposited in EMS' Vehicle Reserve to partially offset the costs to replace an estimated 30 ambulances per year. The Vehicle Reserve is funded from a yearly contribution from the operating budget of \$3.635 million that is cost shared at 50% by the Province and 50% by the City.

Other than foregone auction revenues, there will be no financial impact involved with this donation. El Salvador will be responsible for all preparation and shipping costs, and the City of Toronto will have no liability for their operation or condition once the vehicles leave City property.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

The City of Toronto has a technical partnership agreement with the City of Soyapango, El Salvador, under the umbrella of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In December 2007, in response to a request by the City of Soyapango, Council authorized Toronto EMS to donate one decommissioned ambulance vehicle to Soyapango (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-9000.pdf>).

In correspondence to the Mayor from the Municipal Mayor of Soyapango (dated October 20, 2008) and the Parish Priest of San Lorenzo Anglican Church (dated October 21, 2008), the City of Soyapango has requested the City of Toronto to donate two additional decommissioned ambulance vehicles.

COMMENTS

Soyapango is a new city of approximately 600,000, which developed following civil war in El Salvador. There are currently few formal emergency medical services in Soyapango. It is understood that the Toronto ambulance donated in 2007 was extremely well received and has been utilized as a mobile mini-medical clinic, with physicians and nursing staff able to reach out to assist members of the community who are vulnerable and/or accessibility-restricted. It is upon the basis of the successful results achieved through the acquisition of the ambulance in 2007 that Soyapango is requesting additional ambulances for similar medical-use purposes in 2009.

The City of Toronto Legal Division advises that, based on the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 195, Purchasing, materials or equipment which are deemed surplus to divisional or corporate requirements may be disposed of (1) by public auction or solicitation deemed appropriate by the Chief Purchasing Official in the circumstances, or (2) by way of trade-in at fair market value as part of the acquisition of other materials or equipment, or (3) as Council may otherwise authorize.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provides shared funding for the overall Toronto EMS budget, but has expressed no concerns about Toronto EMS's undertaking this type of donation.

The Chief General Manager of Toronto EMS was consulted in the preparation of this report and concurs with the recommended course of action.

CONTACT

Sherrí Hanley
Senior Corporate Management & Policy Consultant
Tel: 416-392-1086 Fax: 416-696-3645
Email: shanley@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Joseph Pennachetti
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 – Letter from Carlos Alberto Garcia Ruiz, Municipal Mayor of Soyapango, dated October 20, 2008

Appendix 2 – Letter from Father Hernan Astudillo, San Lorenzo Anglican Church, dated October 21, 2008