

Presentation to Clare Municipality of Clare

For the Clare Fire Fighters Association

I would like to start off, by saying thank you for allowing us to make this presentation.

I would like to introduce Shawn Craven, VP of CFFA and myself Dave Doucette Pres. of CFFA.

As you are aware in 2019 there was a Volunteer Fire Service- Vehicle Assessment presented to the council of the time. This assessment brought to light the need for newer, more modern fire apparatus to all of our Stations in the boundaries of The Municipality of Clare.

This assessment also laid out a recommendation of the order and amount of money that the Municipality should allow for those purchases, at the rate of one truck per year starting with Meteghan Fire Dept. then Southville Fire Dept, followed Salmon River Fire Dept., and Little Brook Fire Dept.

During 2022 the pandemic the price of the new trucks has gone up, way up!

Due to this increase, the Fire Departments who are next in line, are unable to get a new truck for the amount that has been allotted, therefore there had to be some discussion on what we were going to do.

There was some discussion and a plan was brought forward to the Clare Fire Fighters Association, this plan was presented at our May 2022 meeting, this gave the Fire Departments some time to discuss this with their members when they returned to their own fire hall.

This was then presented, again, at our July 2022 meeting in Havelock. After a long discussion, there were no other suggestions that would help us solve this problem. In short, a vote was taken and it was as follows:

Vote's for-5

Vote's against-1

And one refusal.

Therefore, as per the Clare Fire Fighters Association By-laws we are here to present this proposal to you, the members of Clare Municipal Council.

This is not something that we, the CFFA took lightly as the need for trucks is great. There were a couple of changes in the order that the trucks were going to be purchased.

These changes only made the list shorter, as one Department was removed from the list and another decided to build one Pumper/Tanker to replace two of their older Trucks. However, with the large increase in the cost of Emergency equipment, our timeline will be a bit longer.

Our proposal which would allow us to continue to purchase new trucks, which would be custom built, or a standard design for each department, would be as follows.

Clare Fire Truck Replacement Plan

Old Plan (380K each year)	New Plan (570K each year)	
	Replacement year	
Havelock (Pumper Tanker)	2024	Havelock (Pumper Tanker)
St. Bernard (Pumper Tanker)	2025	St. Bernard (Pumper Tanker)
Meteghan (Engine)	2026	(SKIP)
Meteghan & Hectanooga (Utility)	2027	Meteghan (Pumper/Tanker)
Meteghan (Engine)	2028	MFD, Hectanooga & LBFD (Utility)
Little Brook (Utility)	2029	(SKIP)
	2030	Meteghan (Pumper/Tanker)
	2031	SRFD, SFD, SBFD & Havelock (Utility)

The new plan can replace utility vehicles for all stations by 2031. Which we feel is valuable to our Departments.

This proposal is based on the truck prices as of now, 2022. We don't know if this will be sustainable in the future, but right now it's the only idea that has been brought forward; this was presented, then voted on and passed. Also with this plan, if the prices don't change, we would be able to sustain a full replacement of our Pumper/Tanker fleet every 20 years, which could be 14 trucks every 20 years.

This however does not include and utility and Equipment trucks.

We, the Clare Firefighters Association, would like to recommend to the Clare Municipal Council to accept this proposal and continue to purchase new fire trucks for Clare.

There was also another issue brought forward, the sales tax on the new fire trucks. Due to the terrible fact, that these new trucks are so costly, puts a large burden on each Fire Department to come up with the amount needed to cover the taxes. We all understand that to be able to apply for the tax refund, it must be the respective Fire Department that sends in the application, to get this refund. Therefore the truck must be paid in full by the Fire Department, including taxes.

This is a large amount on a \$500,000 truck. This amount could be in excess of \$75,000. We are putting even more burden on our volunteers, to try and raise this amount. We are already tapped out with the fundraising needed to get us those extras to fight fires, and provide better emergency services to the people of Clare.

We are asking you, our councillors to visit this subject very soon, and try and sort out a better arrangement to cover these costs. There have been an idea brought forward, this is to have the municipality forward the amount of the cost of the truck and taxes to be paid to the fire dept, then when the portion of taxes that is refunded to the fire dept. comes thru, that cheque would be handed over to the Municipality, the remainder which is not refunded, would be covered by the Municipality of Clare.

If there are any questions we will try and answer the best we can. We are hoping for an open dialogue between the Clare Fire Fighters Association and the Clare Municipal Council.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and recommendations.

We are all here for the betterment of The Municipality of Clare and its residents.

Dave Doucette

CFFA President

Shawn Craven

CFFA Vice-President