POLICY CSD-05: Expected Service Life of Firefighting Rescue Apparatus

Community Services

Approval Date: December 16, 2003
Approval Authority: Council Resolution No. 11
Effective Date: December 16, 2003
Revision Date/s:

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines respecting the service life of Firefighting and Rescue Apparatus in Norfolk County.

Legal Reference

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997 c.4, Section 2.

Definition

The terms Firefighting and Rescue Apparatus refer collectively to fire services motorized vehicles, the associated body and all systems installed on these vehicles.

Refurbishment refers to a substantial overhaul of existing mechanical or chassis components of the apparatus and may also include bodywork or repowering of existing chassis.

Replacement refers to the complete replacement of the apparatus. If cost-effective, some major components, such as the pump or body may be recycled from retired apparatus into the new apparatus if these components are still serviceable and are likely to remain so for the expected life of the new apparatus.

Certified Pump refers to a firefighting water pump that meets the performance requirements of Underwriters laboratories of Canada (ULC) standard S515. In the case of new apparatus, this is determined by a certification test by a recognized third party testing agency.

Implementation Procedure:

Fire service apparatus in active service shall not be kept in this service for longer than approximately twenty years, unless it can be clearly shown that the apparatus is compliant with current and appropriate safety and performance standards for such apparatus, and that the apparatus can be shown to be reliable for continued service. Such justification for extended service shall be established formally before the twentieth anniversary year of the apparatus chassis and every year thereafter as required.

If a fire service apparatus fails, or is anticipated to fail to meet the conditions for continued service, it shall be retired, replaced, or refurbished as soon as possible.

Despite the above, any firefighting apparatus equipped with a Certified Pump that fails to meet its rated ULC capacity on its annual pump test or that fails to pass any other appropriate performance test or inspection shall be removed from active service, and the pump or other component at fault shall be repaired such that it subsequently passes the tests. Any pump-equipped apparatus that cannot reasonably be made to meet its ULC rated capacity shall be retired or replaced as soon as possible.

Firefighting or Rescue Apparatus that are old enough for retirement, or that are in a poor condition, or are of diminished capability may be refurbished as required to extend service life; provided such refurbishment brings the apparatus into compliance with current and appropriate safety and performance standards.

Refurbishment shall be considered, where appropriate, to add a maximum of ten years of active service life to the apparatus, after which the apparatus shall be reassessed for continued service or shall be retired or replaced.

Firefighting or Rescue apparatus that have been retired from active service may be kept in reserve service for up to a further five years provided such reserve apparatus is reasonably suitable for use as a temporary replacement apparatus. Reserve apparatus that are equipped with a Certified Pump must continue to meet their rated capacity on the annual ULC pump tests.

Reserve service apparatus may only be used to replace active service apparatus for such reasonable length of time as is required to affect or modifications to the apparatus that has bene removed from service.