

Purchase of a New Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Vehicle Frequently Asked Questions

The Town of Ladysmith is seeking elector approval through an Alternate Approval Process (AAP) to borrow up to \$2.1 million through the Municipal Finance Authority's Equipment Financing Program for the purchase of a new Ladysmith Fire/Rescue aerial device truck.

We have created these Frequently Asked Questions to help you understand the AAP process as well as a bit more about the proposed replacement vehicle. Additional information can be found in the AAP Information Sheet document.

What is the cost of purchasing the new aerial device truck?

The aerial device truck is included in the 2022-2026 Financial Plan at a budgeted amount of \$2.1-million and received early budget approval by Council. Elector approval is now required before proceeding with the full cost of the borrowing.

The Town is able to achieve better pricing on a Sutphen SPH100 by purchasing the demo model. The model is brand new and it will be on the spring/summer trade circuit tour.

The anticipated delivery date for the vehicle would be as early as Fall 2022, a compressed timeline that benefits the Town when compared to the 18 to 22 month build time for a custom order.

The Town anticipates that prices could increase upwards of 10% on these vehicles in the next year and proceeding now is a fiscally responsible decision.

What is the purpose of an aerial device truck?

The aerial device truck is an important part of Ladysmith Fire/Rescue's fleet of vehicles. As its name suggests, the truck is used when firefighters require more vertical height during an emergency incident, such as a fire and/or building rescue.

The Town acquired the current Superior HP75(Ladder 1) truck in 1997 and the vehicle has now reached the end of its lifespan, as determined by our underwriters insurance.

A new vehicle that meets the growing demands of our community ensures the longevity of public safety as we plan for our future.

What are some of the new features of the truck?

The proposed new vehicle is a Sutphen SPH100 Mid-Mount Aerial Platform.

It comes equipped with a 100-foot ladder and works particularly well on steep grades due to its design - ensuring Ladysmith Fire/Rescue is able to maximize the height of the ladder on hills while at the same time maintaining stability.

The ladder's platform bucket further improves upon the features of LFR's current truck and strengthens firefighters' rescue capabilities from heights.

The truck's shorter wheelbase and overall length results in a more maneuverable apparatus, once again ensuring the vehicle is adaptable when time is of the essence. The Sutphen truck also has one of the fastest set-up speeds in the industry.

Finally, the mid-mount design with the turntable behind the cab shortens the length and height of the truck so that it can fit within Fire Hall without the need for building renovations.

Why has the current truck reached its lifespan?

Fire rescue vehicles operate under considerable mechanical stress during use and must be reliable at all times. A defined length of service is typical for these emergency vehicles based on fire underwriters insurance and a complex mix of other factors.

Upgrades to these vehicles are not optimal from a cost-benefit perspective when compared to purchasing a modernized truck that can better fit the needs of the community it will service.

The new aerial vehicle proposed for Ladysmith Fire/Rescue ensures our emergency services capacity keeps pace with growth, especially in terms of the building heights and density as well as different road grades.

What is an Alternative Approval Process (AAP)?

An AAP allows electors to indicate opposition to a proposal by submitting an Elector Response Form. Certain agreements, bylaws (such as a borrowing bylaw) or other matters require permission from the electors before they can be adopted by Council. There are two options to achieve that permission: through an AAP or through Assent Voting (formerly known as a referendum).

Councils most commonly use an AAP to gauge public opinion - it is a less expensive option than using Assent Voting and can be used whenever the legislation requires the City to obtain permission from the electors.

How can I participate?

If you **approve** of the Town borrowing up to \$2.1 million to purchase a new 2022 Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Truck, **no action is required**.

If you are **opposed** to the Town borrowing up to \$2.1 million to purchase a new 2022 Ladysmith Fire/Rescue Truck, **you may submit an Elector Response Form** during the AAP period. **No early or late submissions can be received.** (See Elector Response Form on Page 10.)

Only electors of the Town of Ladysmith are eligible to sign the Elector Response Forms. There are two types of electors – *resident* and *non-resident*.

- **Resident Elector** – You are entitled to submit an *Elector Response Form* as a *resident elector* if you are: a Canadian citizen; age 18 or older on the day of submission; have been a resident of BC for at least six months; have either lived or owned property in the Town of Ladysmith for at least the last 30 days; and, not be disqualified by law from voting in a local election.
- **Non-Resident Elector** – You are entitled to submit an *Elector Response Form* as a *non-resident elector* if you are: a Canadian citizen; age 18 or older on the day of submission; have been a resident of BC for at least six months; have owned and held registered title to a property in the Town of Ladysmith for at least the last 30 days; not be disqualified by law from voting in a local election; and do not qualify as a *resident elector*. **Note:** Only one *non-resident elector* may submit an Elector Response Form per property, regardless of how many people own the property; and that owner must have the written consent of a majority of the other property owner(s) to sign the Elector Response Form on their behalf. **Property owned in whole or in part by a corporation does not qualify under the non-resident elector provisions.**

By signing the Elector Response Form you are certifying that:

- ✓ I am a Canadian citizen; and
- ✓ I am 18 years of age or older; and
- ✓ I have been a resident of British Columbia for at least the last six months; and
- ✓ I have either lived or owned property in the Town of Ladysmith for at least the last 30 days; and
- ✓ I am not disqualified by law from voting in local elections;
- ✓ I may not sign an Elector Response Form more than once in relation to this matter.

Where can I obtain an Elector Response Form and when do I need to return it?

Elector Response Forms are available during regular business hours at: Ladysmith City Hall, 410 Esplanade, Ladysmith, BC. The form can also be downloaded from the Town's website: www.ladysmith.ca. The only Elector Response Forms that will be accepted by the Town are the ones provided by the Town of Ladysmith, or an accurate copy of the form.

Deadline:

Completed Elector Response Forms must be returned to the Town of Ladysmith **by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, 2022**. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding statutory holidays.

How to submit the completed form:

In person: City Hall, 410 Esplanade, Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A2

By mail: PO Box 220, Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A2

Fax: 250.245.6411 *if sending by fax, please ensure the transaction was completed.*

Email vote@ladysmith.ca

