



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

DISPOSAL OF 'END OF LIFE' FIRE APPLIANCES

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 11 November 2016

Purpose of Report:

To request that Members give consideration to the disposal of 4 'end of life' fire appliances.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 For a number of years, the Authority has supported various voluntary operations to give an extended life to fire appliances that are considered to be at the end of their useful life within the UK, and no longer fit for purpose. In April 2016, this committee agreed to continue that support and donated a further 2 appliances to rural fire crews in Croatia. In May 2016, the 2 vehicles were successfully transported by volunteers to Croatia, where they also delivered basic training in the use of the vehicles and equipment.
- 1.2 Following the operation, a delegation of Croatian fire officers visited Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) HQ and presented the Service with a painting of a rural setting in Croatia as a gesture of their thanks for the vehicles. Whilst here, they also took the opportunity to explain the very real difference the generosity of the Authority has made to those benefitting communities. To give an overview of the operation, one of the volunteers will be in attendance at the committee meeting to give a very short presentation.
- 1.3 This report brings forward a request to donate 2 further appliances to Croatia, and also for Members to consider donating, under a covenant arrangement, an appliance to the Mansfield Fire Museum and also one to the East Midlands branch of the Fire Service Preservation Group.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 A small number of employees, both past and present, have volunteered their time, resources and energy to support a number of overseas colleagues by way of securing appliances and equipment considered to be at the end of their useful life within the UK Fire and Rescue Services.
- 2.2 Recent projects have led to the overseas delivery of both fire appliances and ambulances together with a significant amount of spare parts and operational equipment. This gives the vehicles and equipment a second lease of life for use in disadvantaged countries, and makes a significant impact on those local communities.
- 2.3 This latest project involves 6 NFRS volunteers and seeks to provide a pair of Dennis Sabre fire appliances to sparsely populated rural communities in Croatia, namely: Ludbreg and Velica Bukovec. One of the vehicles is an X registered Dennis Sabre pumping appliance, and the other is an S registered 1998 Dennis Sabre rescue tender.
- 2.4 In Croatia, the fire cover in the area is provided by volunteer firefighters with existing appliances that are significantly older than those being considered for donation, and are increasingly more difficult to maintain in a useable state, however, the fire cover in such a rural location is critical to the safety and protection of the communities.
- 2.5 As well as the 2 vehicles, a quantity of obsolete equipment and spares have also been secured from other UK fire and rescue services and suppliers, and it is proposed that this will also be transported on the appliances.

- 2.6 On arrival in Croatia, the appliances will be handed over to the local communities and 2 days of training will take place to ensure that the volunteer firefighters are able to safely put the new equipment and appliances to effective use.
- 2.7 The 2 appliances considered for donation are wholly owned by the Authority and have an estimated value of £2-3k each as there is no viable second hand market for the vehicles. In fact, due to security reasons, the vehicles would most likely need to be fully decommissioned and sold for spares and scrap.
- 2.8 As previously secured, an approach is being made to Freight Transport Association and ATS Tyres to support the project to provide breakdown and puncture repair cover, and local businesses in Croatia have been approached to cover ferry, fuel and toll costs for the journey. There are no issues regarding export or import of the vehicles.
- 2.9 The team will require 3 days to drive the vehicles the 1500 miles to the destination and will be provided free accommodation along the way by other European fire and rescue services.
- 2.10 The appliances will remain the property of the Authority until handover and will be covered by the Service's vehicle insurance within the existing policy parameters.
- 2.11 The team will cover all of their own direct costs for the journey including travel insurance, food and flights back to England. The project will take a maximum of 8 days and it is proposed to grant each of the 3 currently serving employees 50% of the time as special leave.
- 2.12 Members are also asked to consider the donation of an appliance to the Mansfield Fire Museum and also one to the East Midlands Branch of the Fire Service Preservation Group (FSPG). Both organisations are reputable and have existing close links with NFRS.
- 2.13 The value of supporting such organisations was made very clear at the recent closing event held at Central Fire Station, where a number of vehicles were paraded through the station to mark the 76 years of history at Shakespeare Street. The majority of those vehicles are owned by museums and various branches of the national Fire Service Preservation Group.
- 2.14 Both organisations also support NFRS at community events, station open days, The 999 Emergency Service Show and various charity events, providing an attraction opportunity to engage with the community.
- 2.15 It is proposed that the vehicles will be 'sold' to the organisations for a notional fee of £1 under an overarching covenant, which will ensure that they are maintained and any security, reputational and potential financial issues are addressed.
- 2.16 The vehicles being considered for donation to the Museum and FSPG are in the next and final tranche of Dennis appliances that will be due for disposal during the year 2017/18, as it is anticipated that by 2019 the fleet will have fully progressed to Scania vehicles.

2.17 These latest Dennis appliances were registered in 2002 and 2003 and have an estimated value of £5-6k each. However that would be subject to being able to identify a suitable buyer.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The only financial consideration is the potential revenue that could be secured from the local disposal of the appliances. This would be in the region of £2-3k each for the 2 being considered for deployment to Croatia, and £5-6k each for those being proposed for donation to the Museum and FSPG.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific human resources or learning and development implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not seek to change policy or service provision.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The team travelling to Croatia will be acting as volunteers in their own time, however, as they will be travelling in and using Authority appliances and equipment and with the authorisation of the Authority, they will be considered to be 'at work' and will therefore be covered by the Authority's Employers' Liability insurance. The Authority also has personal accident and travel insurance in place.

- 8.2 Risk assessments have been undertaken to consider all aspects of both the overland journey and the delivery of training to the volunteer firefighters. The activity does not present any greater risk than what is normally undertaken during day-to-day activities.
- 8.3 As the overland journey will take 3 days, all of the team are qualified drivers and 2 are trained HGV mechanics. Four of the team are current or previously qualified fire and rescue service trainers. One of the team members is multi-lingual and further interpretation services have been secured in Croatia. The Authority's motor insurers have confirmed that use of the appliance in Croatia, and those countries transited during the journey are covered under the current motor insurance policy.
- 8.4 Donation to the Museum and FSPG, as 2 reputable bodies, does not present risk to NFRS or national security, and by way of attaching a covenant to the agreement of sale the Authority, can be reassured that the vehicles will be maintained and only used in the interests of preserving and celebrating heritage.
- 8.5 After handover, all of the vehicles will become the property and liability of the receiving organisations and therefore all future liabilities and risk will also transfer.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members agree to:

- 9.1 Donate the 2 end of life Dennis Sabre vehicles to Ludbreg and Velica Bukovec in Croatia.
- 9.2 Sell for £1 under covenant, an end of life Dennis Sabre Fire Appliance to the Mansfield Fire Museum.
- 9.3 Sell for £1 under covenant, an end of life Dennis Sabre Fire Appliance to the East Midlands Branch of the Fire Service Preservation Group.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER