



POSTPONED MOTIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

NUMBER: PM-19-021

REQUESTED BY:	Councillor Natalie Joly
ORIGIN OF REQUEST:	City Council
DATE OF REQUEST:	November 8, 2018

AUTHOR:	Bernd Gretzinger
DEPARTMENT:	Emergency Services
DATE RESPONSE DUE:	November 13, 2018

MOTION:

That FIRE-030 Power Stretcher and Load System is funded from the capital reserve.

RESPONSE (one page max.):

Administration's Understanding of Intent Motion:

That FIRE-030 Power Stretcher and Load System is to be funded from the capital reserve for the 2019 budget.

Operational or Organizational Impacts if Motion is Approved:

This would provide Power Stretchers and Load Systems for the 2 frontline ambulances of St Albert Fire Services. The mechanical backup ambulances would retain manual stretchers. The Power Stretchers and Load Systems improve patient and staff safety for loading patients into the ambulance. Based on research the expectation is that staff back injuries reduction would offset the cost of implementation.

Financial Implications of Motions:

The \$100,000 budget is for implementation with the 2 frontline units. Transition to this style of stretcher has implications on ambulance replacement cost for the RMR plan. New ambulances would need Power Stretcher and Load System cost factored into vehicle lifecycle and replacement. Funding of this charter in 2019 will reduce the amount of capital dollars available in the future.

Stakeholder Consultations:

Internal stakeholder consultation has occurred with departmental staff recommending purchase of the Power Stretcher and Load System through the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Background:

Powered Stretchers and Load Systems have become the new industry standard for loading patients. Powered systems are a significant upgrade over a manual stretcher. Powered Stretchers and Load Systems are an innovative patient moving technology designed to minimize loads on the musculature of staff while improving patient safety and comfort.

Power Stretchers mechanically lift and lower with the push of a button. Power load systems mechanically load the stretcher into the ambulance at the push of a button with minimal physical exertion required.

These systems provide an improved patient experience through smoother movement when raising, lowering and loading patients. Additionally, these Power Systems provide greater stability and support for bariatric patients. Ergonomic Studies have identified a reduction of workplace injuries associated with switching to powered systems.