



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Hamilton Paramedic Service

TO:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	September 9, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Purchase of New Stair Chair Conveyance Equipment (HSC21030) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Cliff Eggleton (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7743
SUBMITTED BY:	Michael Sanderson Chief, Hamilton Paramedic Service Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That Council approve the standardization of Stryker Conveyance equipment Including the Stryker Stair Pro manufactured by Stryker pursuant to Procurement Policy #14 – Standardization, until December 31, 2030 (expected service life of the equipment); and,
- (b) That staff be directed to issue a competitive procurement process as outlined in the procurement By-Law No. 20-205 to obtain stated equipment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the course of Paramedics Professional duties, staff are required to carry, move or extricate individuals from numerous locations and or situations where the traditional paramedic stretcher cannot be utilized to move the individual to the ambulance. To assist in these scenarios when the stretcher cannot be utilized, a conveyance system called a “stair chair” is utilized to lift and carry patients up or down stairs as well as allowing the paramedics to roll the patients in a wheelchair like device around tight quarters.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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The current stair chair conveyance equipment in use by paramedics across the city is at end of life and requires replacement.

Hamilton Paramedic Service completed a staff trial and evaluation of the two Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care approved Stair Chair Conveyance Equipment available for Ontario Ambulance Market with the Stryker brand being the brand of choice for this critical piece of conveyance equipment. Hamilton Paramedic Service currently has an approved Policy #14 for Stryker brand stretcher/loading conveyance systems (Report CS15026) which has been successful in the current ambulance system.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Initial acquisition of the new equipment has been estimated at approximately \$180,000. This is included in the 2020 Council Approved Capital Budget under Project #7642051101 – 2020 Equipment Replacement Project for Hamilton Paramedic Service.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 2019, Hamilton Paramedic Service (HPS) identified that the current Stair Chair Conveyance Device in operation (the Ferno EZ glide) would be reaching end of life and would need to be replaced soon. To ensure the current market options for pre-hospital Stair Chair Conveyance Devices was evaluated prior to the procurement and replacement of the current equipment HPS staff were invited to participate, evaluate and use the three Stair Chair Conveyance Devices that are approved for use in the Ontario ambulance market (Ferno EZ Glide, Ferno Power and Stryker Stair Pro). HPS initiated a comprehensive evaluation, survey and a six-week field trial to gather user information on the ease of use along with staff preferences to provide an informed decision on which device would be the preferred option for HPS. The review and conclusion of the trial identified that the Stryker Stair Pro Device was the device of choice for HPS staff.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

The recommended device meets the Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services.

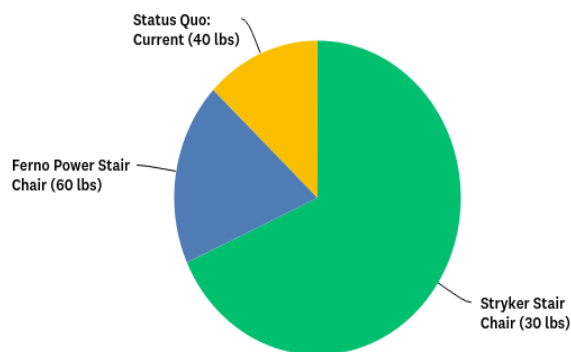
RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation with Procurement staff regarding the interpretation and application of Procurement policy and Consultation with Finance to verify financial information provided in report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

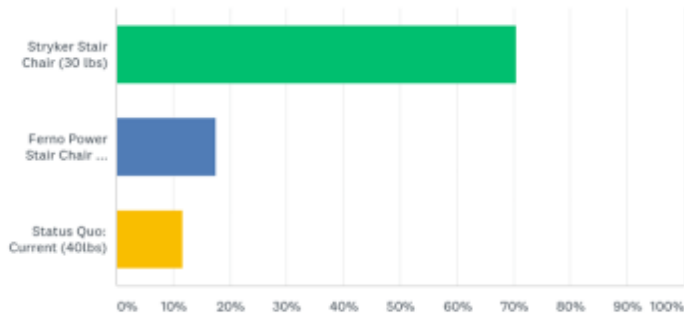
HPS evaluated the three most widely used and approved Stair chair conveyance devices approved for Ontario Ambulance Systems, the Ferno EZ Glide chair, The Ferno Power Chair and the Stryker Stair Pro. HPS Performance and Development staff were trained in the use of the devices by representatives of the device manufacturers then in turn our trainers trained, tested and evaluated front line paramedics on all three devices prior to initiating the demonstration, survey and six week trial. Results from the survey are included below.

Q1 Given the three stair chairs which were demonstrated in PDD2, I prefer the following option:



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Q4: During the Field Trial, I preferred the following stair chair:



The feedback from staff identified the Stryker Stair Pro chair as the preferred conveyance device mainly due to the significant weight differences of the three chairs. Paramedics appreciate the advantages of lighter equipment when having to carry equipment and people up or down stairs and in and out of homes. HPS has currently invested substantially in other Stryker conveyance devices with the Stryker Power Stretches and Stryker Power Loader systems to assist in the reduction of lifting acquired injuries for paramedics and this device will also reduce the amount of weight paramedics are required to lift on a regular basis.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

None

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None