



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**Hamilton Paramedic Service**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	November 18, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Stryker Power Load Conveyance Equipment Standardization (HSC21038) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Cliff Eggleton (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7743
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Michael Sanderson Chief, Hamilton Paramedic Service Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Stryker Power Cot/Power Load system be designated a “Standard” system pursuant to Procurement Policy #14 – Standardization, such designation to be reviewed again no later than December 31, 2032;
- (b) That the Preventative Maintenance programs and any repairs for the Stryker Power Cot/Power Load system, manufactured by Stryker Canada Inc, be authorized to be performed by Stryker Canada Inc or a Stryker Canada Inc authorized repair facility; and,
- (c) That the Chief, Hamilton Paramedic Service, or their designate, be authorized to negotiate, enter into and execute any required contract and any ancillary documents required to give effect thereto with Stryker Canada Inc or an authorized Stryker Canada Inc distributor, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hamilton Paramedics along with much of Ontario’s municipal Paramedic Services have adopted using Stryker PowerLoad and PowerCot system with much success.

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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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Hamilton's 2015 adoption of these PowerLoad and PowerCot systems is now approaching the original equipment's approved manufacturer service life and will require replacement soon.

The current Council approval for system Standardization pursuant to Procurement Policy #14 Standardization expires in 2022.

The Hamilton Paramedic Service has designed a plan to replace the original conveyance and loading systems that were installed in 2015 over four years starting in 2022 and ending in 2025.

**Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: The funds for 2022 are included in the 2022 Capital Budget under Project #7642251101 - 2022 Annual Equipment Replacement Project for Hamilton Paramedic Service. Subsequent years will be included in those years' Capital Budget. There is no additional levy impact as the main source of funding is the Paramedic Services Equipment Reserve and allocated Block funding.

<b>Year Replacement</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Estimated spend for each year</b>				
Stretchers (7-10 years)	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Loading System (7-10 years)	\$393,750	\$393,750	\$393,750	\$393,750
Total	\$793,750	\$793,750	\$793,750	\$793,750

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Hamilton Paramedic Service transitioned from Paramedics physically lifting stretchers into ambulances to a mechanical power lifting and loading system to lift and load its patient's and stretchers into ambulances after Council approval on May 27, 2015 (Report CS15026).

85% of Municipal Paramedic Services across the province have eagerly adopted this power loading technology along with the power lifting stretchers during the past decade, assisting their staff in reducing physical injuries caused by having to physically lift the

weight of a stretcher, medical equipment and the patient from the ground up and into the back of ambulances.

Since 2015, through Council's approval, Hamilton Paramedic Service has purchased and installed 47 PowerLoad lifting systems in all (except one) of our ambulances and has purchased 57 Stryker PowerCots for approximately \$2,278,733 to assist Paramedics in transporting and lifting patients. This PowerLoad and PowerCot system has received great appreciation and adoption from the front-line paramedics and has led to eliminating paramedic injuries related from directly lifting or loading stretchers into ambulances.

The Stryker systems have proven to be reliable and consistent related to lifting and loading patients into ambulances. Hamilton Paramedic Service has very few documented equipment problems, system issues or critical mission failures related to these two pieces of equipment.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Pursuant to the *Ontario Ambulance Act*, Section 4, Part 1(d), the Minister of Health has authority "to establish standards for the management, operation and use of ambulance services and to ensure compliance with those standards".

Pursuant to this authority the Ministry of Health has published the "Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services V3.5". The Stryker PowerCot stretcher and the Stryker PowerLoad systems are certified as being in compliance with these standards.

The Ontario *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, Section 25, Part 2(h) requires that the employer shall "take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker".

Given the existence of musculoskeletal and repetitive strain hazards associated with the past use of manual lift and load stretchers and recognizing the nature of work required to be performed by paramedics, it is expected that we should be diligent in reducing the frequency of manual lifting and the total weight to be lifted to protect the health and safety of workers.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Consultation with Procurement staff regarding the interpretation and application of Procurement policy, consultation with Finance to verify financial information provided in this report and consultation with Risk Management regarding extending manufactures recommended lifespan for equipment discussed in this report.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Since the approval and adoption of the Stryker PowerLoad and PowerCot system for the Hamilton Paramedic Service, the City has provided a substantial investment, both in terms of direct capital costs in the equipment and indirect investment in training and intangibles such as the development of operational procedures and techniques. The equipment service life is +/- 7 years, with training and intangibles lasting even longer. There is no similar system currently available or in development, so it is proposed that the Stryker PowerLoad and PowerCot system be designated as a Hamilton Paramedic Service “Standard” and continue pursuant to Procurement Policy #14 – Standardization to facilitate ongoing longer-term maintenance and procurement planning.

## **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.

### **Our People and Performance**

Hamiltonians have a high level of trust and confidence in their City government.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None