

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Decision

Date: February 2, 2026	File:
To: Council	From: A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief
Re: Disposal of Engine 1 – 1996 Freightliner Fire Apparatus	
Recommendation: THAT Council authorize the sale of Engine 1 (1996 Freightliner) to Barriere Auto and Truck Tow for the offered price of \$3,000, and direct staff to complete all necessary documentation to remove the unit from the fire department fleet and municipal asset registry.	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to dispose of Engine 1, a 1996 Freightliner fire apparatus that is no longer serviceable as a fire truck and has become cost-prohibitive to repair.

Background

Engine 1 is a 1996 Freightliner that has reached the end of its operational life. The apparatus experienced a mechanical failure a couple of weeks ago and is currently not operable. Due to its age, condition, and configuration, it is no longer suitable or economical for continued use as a fire apparatus.

When the vehicle was still operational, previous auction attempts resulted in bids of approximately \$15,000 (*asking price, when vehicle was operational, was \$20,000*). Since the recent breakdown, the unit's condition has deteriorated to the point where it no longer holds comparable market value, particularly as a fire service vehicle.

Current Condition and Operational Impact

- Engine 1 is not roadworthy in its current state.
- Engine 1 offers no value or impacts to the FUS rating.
- Repair costs are expected to be significant, with no guarantee of long-term reliability.
- Replacement parts for a 1996 Freightliner are increasingly difficult and costly to source.
- Continued storage of the apparatus provides no operational benefit and incurs ongoing liability and space constraints.

Given these factors, retaining the unit is not considered a prudent use of municipal resources.

Financial Considerations

Barriere Auto and Truck Tow has offered \$3,000 for the vehicle in its current, non-operational condition.

While this amount is lower than previous auction values, those values were achieved when the apparatus was still usable.

In addition to the purchase offer, the towing company provides substantial in-kind support to the Fire Department, including:

- Hosting two weekend auto extrication training sessions per year at no cost
- Providing vehicles free of charge for training purposes
- Assisting with emergency and operational tows when required

The ongoing value of these in-kind services significantly offsets costs that would otherwise be borne by the municipality.

Options Considered

Option 1: Retain and Repair Engine 1 – *Not recommended.*

- High and uncertain repair costs
- No guarantee of reliability or longevity
- Does not represent good asset management

Option 2: Attempt Another Public Auction – *Not preferred.*

- Limited interest expected due to non-operational status
- Potentially lower or comparable bids
- Additional administrative time and delay
- The vehicle would need to be towed off site.

Option 3: Sell to Local Towing Company - *Recommended*

- Immediate removal of a non-serviceable asset
- Guaranteed revenue of \$3,000
- Strengthens an existing, mutually beneficial partnership
- Recognizes the value of ongoing in-kind support to the Fire Department

Conclusion

Engine 1 (1996 Freightliner) is no longer fit for service and is financially impractical to repair for the District of Barriere. The proposed sale reflects current market realities and supports a valued local partner who provides consistent and meaningful in-kind services to the Fire Department. Approval of this sale aligns with responsible asset management and operational efficiency.

Recommendation

THAT Council authorize the sale of Engine 1 (1996 Freightliner) to Barriere Auto and Truck Tow for the offered price of \$3,000, and direct staff to complete all necessary documentation to remove the unit from the fire department fleet and municipal asset registry.

Prepared by: A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

Reviewed by: D. Drexler, CAO