



AGENDA ITEM #: 22-30  
COUNCIL MTG OF: March 1, 2022  
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: James Richardson, Interim EM Director  
PREPARED BY: Ryan Bump, Deputy Emergency Management Director / Fire Captain  
SUBJECT: Emergency Management Utility Vehicle (UTV) Grant Request

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STAFF REPORT  
*Public Hearing 3-15-22*

**PURPOSE:**

Recommendation to apply for and accept, if awarded, an Alexander Eastman Foundation Grant for the purpose of purchasing a utility vehicle (UTV) and trailer. The UTV and trailer would enhance emergency responders' ability to access emergency incidents located in remote, hard to reach areas of town.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

*The Bureau of Emergency Management is requesting permission to apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant through the Alexander Eastman Foundation. The amount of this grant request is \$45,000. The grant program does have a few requirements:*

- 1. The grant must be used in the communities of Derry, Londonderry, Windham, Chester, Hampstead or Sandown.*
- 2. Grants must be used to promote good health and well-being for residents of the greater Derry area and to improve the quality and availability of health care in the community.*

**BACKGROUND:**

The Derry Bureau of Emergency Management identified the need to improve our first responders' ability to access incidents located in remote and hard to reach area of town. There are approximately 8.3 miles of recreational trails, including the Derry Rail Trail and Rockingham ATV Trail, as well as many additional miles of trails running along the electrical transmission lines throughout town. These trails are currently difficult and time consuming to access.

This emergency vehicle would provide responders with the ability to remove an ill or injured patient from these remote areas, while lying flat on a medical backboard. Additionally, this vehicle would increase responders' ability to shuttle personnel and equipment to and from other types of emergencies, including forest fires. Finally, this vehicle may be used during non-emergency, community events—such as road races, parades and the annual Derry Fest—to shuttle personnel and equipment back and forth across large geographical areas.

**DISCUSSION:**

Incidents, including medical emergencies, often occur in hard to reach areas of our community. With this new vehicle, emergency responders could access these incidents more quickly and would arrive with sufficient equipment to render appropriate aid. This vehicle would also allow responders to more rapidly remove an ill or injured person from the remote area to awaiting ambulances for further treatment and transport. In addition to serving during medical emergencies, this vehicle would also be useful in transporting responders to and from forest fire incidents.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There will be minimal fiscal impact to the community. If the grant is awarded, the Bureau of Emergency Management would budget for the annual registration of the vehicle and trailer, as well as for the annual inspection of the vehicle. The Bureau is already in possession of the necessary tools and equipment to operate the vehicle, including portable radio and medical backboard.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL:**

Allow the Town Administrator to apply for and accept the Alexander Eastman Foundation Grant for the purpose of purchasing a utility vehicle (UTV) and trailer to enhance the ability of Derry's emergency responders to access emergency incidents located in remote, hard to reach areas of town.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Please see Resolution #2022-024.