

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 16, 2008**

### **ENFORCEMENT SERVICES – MOTORIZED TRAIL BIKES**

#### **Recommendation**

The Director of Enforcement Services seeks direction on this matter

#### **Economic Impact**

Motorized trail bikes suitable for the intended work cost approximately \$7,500. each. The safety gear for staff would cost approximately \$1,000. in addition, some miscellaneous costs of another \$1,000. would be required. The cost of the initiative would not be expected to exceed \$20,000.

#### **Communications Plan**

N/A

#### **Purpose**

This report is to provide additional information relating to the acquisition of additional enforcement equipment to conduct patrols of Parks and Open Spaces.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Council, at its meeting of May 26, 2008 recommended that:

“The Committee of the Whole recommends that this matter be referred to staff for a comprehensive report, including the feasibility of sharing vehicles with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Services.”

Staff have conducted a review of the options and comments and report as follows:

a) **Comparables**

Several municipalities in the general area have similar kinds of patrols of their open spaces.

Richmond Hill has purchased two All Terrain Vehicles to patrol their open spaces. Their patrols are conducted both independently and in conjunction with York Regional Police.

Kitchener operates trail bikes to patrol their open space patrols and they also operate them for parking enforcement.

Oshawa is currently in the planning stages to implement a trail bike program in conjunction with Durham Regional Police in 2009.

Brampton, Mississauga, and Markham do not have similar programs.

b) Options

The option of an all terrain vehicle compared to a street legal trail motorcycle was reviewed. It is recommended that the trail motorcycle be the preferred option due to the economics outlined below.

Trail bikes generally cost approximately \$1,000. per unit less than all terrain vehicles.

As with the City of Kitchener model, the trail bikes can be utilized on the road, therefore, allowing staff to operate the trail bikes without having to trailer them to a location. This option would realize savings on the cost of a trailer and fuel costs as there is no need for a truck to tow them to a patrol site.

Due to the preferred choice of vehicle type, there would be no opportunity to share the vehicle with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.

c) Training

It is not expected that cost of training will not be an issue.

Enforcement Services Department has a certified motorcycle instructor from Toronto Police Services on compliment. Training for those uniformed staff members that already have a motorcycle rating on their driver's license will be conducted by this staff member, and will be designed to meet the specific operational needs.

As more staff obtain their motorcycle rating, additional training will be conducted at no additional cost to the City.

d) Other Information

It has been the policy of Enforcement Services that staff will not engage in pursuits of persons fleeing. This policy will not change. Persons that decide to flee will not be pursued by staff. The objective of the enforcement Services Department is to bring an end to illegal activity. By persons departing the area, this objective will be accomplished.

Should illegal activity be witnessed and persons identified, charges under the applicable By-laws will be considered.

As indicated in the report, York Regional Police have expressed an interest in conducting joint patrols in problem open space areas. This combined enforcement approach will enhance the enforcement impacts on these areas.

**Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020**

This report is in keeping with the Vaughan Vision 2020, specifically: Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; Enhance Productivity, Cost Effectiveness & Innovation.

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

The acquisition of motorized trail bikes would be an effective method of patrolling and deterring illegal use of open spaces within the City of Vaughan.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services & City Solicitor