

August 8, 2018

Report To: Mayor and Council

From: Travis Rob, Manager of Operations and Facilities

RE: Unbudgeted emergency repairs – Fort Frances Airport Tractor

In the fall of 2017 the Airport Tractor was showing coolant in the oil. At that time the head gasket was replaced, as this was the most likely culprit for this type of issue. This machine only pulls the large gang mower at the Airport and with the repair happening late in the fall, the run time in 2017 was minimal. Once lawn mowing resumed in 2018 the issue started happening again with no improvement from 2017. Once we saw the issue had returned the Mechanics at Badiuk Equipment, where the tractor was originally bought, were consulted with on the issue. The machine is a 1989 with just over 2500 hours on it. The mower it is used to pull is powered by its PTO and requires at least an 80-horsepower tractor to run. It was learned that tractors in this vintage suffered from porous block castings and were prone to failure resulting in the coolant leaking into the oil. This problem was more prevalent in tractors with low hours, as is the case with this particular unit.

Due to the particular use of this tractor at the Airport, there are no other tractors within the Town fleet that have the horsepower to complete the same task making the repair of this unit in a timely fashion of the utmost importance. In addition, the very low hours on this machine means that, in working condition, it still has a fair value to sell or trade should we replace this piece of equipment down the road and it should still provide many years of service to us for what it is used for. Alternatively, the replacement of this unit with a suitably sized replacement would cost around \$120,000.00

To complete the repairs, means the replacement of the engine block and associated gaskets. In addition, the clutch is wearing out, and given that the tractor will have to be split to remove the engine, it is the opportune time to replace the clutch. Attached to this report you will find a quotation for the parts and labour to complete the works by Badiuk Equipment as our Mechanics are not outfitted to complete this type of repair.

It is the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to approve of the emergency unbudgeted capital repair of the Airport Tractor estimated at \$13,404.36 including HST to be paid out of the Vehicle and Equipment reserves.

Respectfully Submitted



Travis Rob, P.Eng
Manager of Operations and Facilities

Council approval of this report will agree with the recommendation of the Operations and Facilities Executive Committee to approve of the emergency unbudgeted capital repair of the Airport Tractor estimated at \$13,404.36 including HST to be paid out of the Vehicle and Equipment reserves.