



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 4000-02  
**PC:** Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety **DATE:** June 4, 2023  
Lands and Admin/ Deputy CAO  
**FROM:** Darren Lees, Manager, Protective Services  
**SUBJECT: BYLAW COMPLIANCE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT UPGRADE**

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Bylaw Compliance radio communications and in car mobile data terminals continue to play an important role for effective department operations and officer safety while officers respond to calls for service throughout the community.

Bylaw Officers use portable radios on a daily basis to interact with other on-duty officers, Bylaw Services Front Counter, RCMP Watch Commanders, front line RCMP Members and offer a quick communication option while patrolling on foot or bike throughout the city. Radio base stations are located and monitored at Bylaw Services front counter and by RCMP Watch Clerks for officer safety and allow for quick communications between agencies where necessary. Currently, portable radio communication throughout the city can be challenging. Communication is often unclear or unreadable as the VHF repeater location is a significant distance from the city center. As officer safety is a primary consideration for officers while responding to calls for services, clear and reliable radio communication is essential.

Currently, Bylaw Compliance portable radio communications are relayed to other officers or agencies or to base stations through a VHF repeater located north west of the city on Tuk Mountain. Repeater signal coverage mapping was produced for the Tuk Mountain repeater location and a potential repeater location on top of the downtown Parkade (Attachment 1). Repeater signal mapping suggests that placing a repeater on the west tower of the Parkade would enable portable radio communications to be much clearer and more concise providing as much possible VHF signal coverage across the community.

Bylaw Officers primarily operate on Channel 1 - Bylaw/ Combined Events but can also monitor several other programmed channels and communicate directly with City Parks or Operations staff. Channel 1 may also serve as a primary communication channel during a significant community emergency event such as fire or flood.

In addition to the City's Working Alone or In Isolation Check-In Procedure policy and officer safety check in procedures, radio communications add an additional communication and safety option for officers while engaged in daily operations. As portable radios are used daily and are constantly exposed to changing temperatures and weather conditions, current radios are nearing end of life and replacement is necessary. The majority of Bylaw Compliance portable radios were last updated in 2008. Bylaw Compliance will require 12 new portable radios, 12 external mics and a 12-bank multi

charger. Existing portable radios in good working order will be utilized by relief officers where needed or reserved for emergency use.

In addition to radio communication, each bylaw patrol vehicle is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) to ensure officers have full access to all related City programs in order to provide the best possible customer service while attending calls for service throughout the city. Information Services (IS) has advised that current patrol vehicle MDT's are no longer manufactured. Two new MDT's will need to be purchased to continue to provide the current level of service during field operations. IS has recommended acquiring new MDT's that are capable of withstanding extreme temperatures fluctuations similar to those used by Police and Fires Services.

The unexpended uncommitted balance is at \$ 2,673,561.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receive the memorandum titled "Bylaw Compliance Communication Equipment Upgrade" dated June 4, 2023, respectfully submitted by the Manager, Protective Services;

AND FURTHER, that Council authorize the expenditure up to \$45,500 for the purchase of 12 portable radios, 12 external portable radio mics, a 12 bank multi charger, two Mobile Data Terminals for the patrol vehicles and the purchase and installation of a VHF repeater to be located on the west tower of the Parkade to be funded by the 2022 Unexpended Uncommitted balance.

Respectfully submitted:



Darren Lees

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. "Repeater Signal Coverage Mapping – Tuk Mountain/ Parkade" (Attachment 1)

