



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New fire trucks arrive for City of Vernon

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) has received two new fire trucks.

The Pierce fire apparatus includes a fire engine, which will perform a dual function and replace both a 34-year-old engine and a 17-year-old rescue truck, and a new ladder truck which will replace its 28-year-old predecessor.

In 2018, Council approved the purchase of a fire engine and ladder truck to help address challenges with an aging fire services fleet. Fire apparatus maintenance and replacement is a key component of the Vernon Fire Rescue Services' Eight Year Strategic Plan.

“Strategic replacement of apparatus provides firefighters with reliable fire trucks which are equipped with modern safety systems,” said Chief David Lind. “This is good for firefighters and public safety and it also helps with the effective provision of service.”

“We are grateful that our Mayor and Council continue to support the critical needs of the fire department in modernizing our apparatus and equipment,” said Deputy Chief Scott Hemstad. “Great strides are being taken to improve the emergency services provided to the community and this is one of the key components to that plan.”

Maintaining a fire services fleet which complies with industry standards is an important aspect in consideration of the community's Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) ratings. These ratings influence the cost for the purchase of fire insurance in a community.

VFRS will spend the next few weeks training and familiarizing staff and equipping the new trucks. Both apparatus are targeted to be placed into service on November 16, 2019. To celebrate the event a traditional *push in* ceremony and public open house will be held at Fire Station #1, 3401 - 30 Street from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

A *push in* ceremony involves members of council and firefighters pushing the apparatus into the bay, marking the moment when the apparatus begins its function of serving the community. The apparatus being retired from service will also be on site for the event.

