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Item No. 15.1.3
Halifax Regional Council
June 10, 2025

TO: Mayor Fillmore and Members of Halifax Regional Council

FROM: Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: **Council Award – Request for Proposal for Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV)**

ORIGIN

The Approved 2025/2026 Capital Budget – Police Fleet Expansion p. G36

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (1) Regional Council award request for proposal 2025-0134 for one Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) to Cambli Group Inc. for \$539,849 (net HST included), as the highest scoring proponent for this solicitation, with funding from capital account No. CV240005, Police Fleet Expansion, as outlined in the Financial Implications section of this report; and
- (2) Direct the CAO to execute the resulting procurement documentation with Cambli Group Inc.

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) provides policing services to residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) through a diverse fleet of vehicles used for patrol, investigations, emergency response, surveillance, and other specialized functions.

In recent years, HRP officers have increasingly responded to high-risk incidents such as active shooter events, weapons complaints, and barricaded persons. These situations present serious threats to both public and officer safety, including the risk of injury and fatalities. In 2023, HRP's Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to 150 official deployments, including 55 critical incidents, recovering firearms ranging from handguns to high-powered assault-style rifles.

In support of public safety, HRP requested the purchase of one (1) Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV). The ARV is intended to enhance the safety of officers and civilians during high-risk situations by providing secure transport, enabling safe extraction of individuals from dangerous environments, and supporting tactical training readiness.

These types of events pose a significant risk to officers, members of the public, and those in crisis situations. These circumstances often require the rapid and protected transport of officers, equipment, and civilians in and out of volatile environments, sometimes under active threat.

The requested ARV will serve a clear function to:

- Provide ballistic protection for officers and civilians during crisis situations involving armed threats.
- Support the extraction of injured or confined individuals in active threat environments.
- To transport specialized equipment and trained personnel closer to the point of deployment in a protected manner.

The ARV would be used in accordance with policies which will be established and approved by HRP.

HRP's Senior Policy Advisor has completed a jurisdictional scan of several policing agencies across Canada, all of which have their own ARVs. A policy related to ARV use has been drafted and has undergone an internal review process. Additional information will be added to the draft policy once the ARV model has been selected through the procurement process and details of the purchase are made available.

Any ARV policy adopted by HRP will state that the ARV is to be approved internally prior to use and will contain direction around permitted and prohibited use of the vehicle. It will also outline how the ARV will be stored and that regular inspections of the vehicle will take place. HRP expects to finalize its ARV policy in the near future and will ensure the policy is in place prior to receiving the vehicle.

HRP's Senior Policy Advisor has collaborated with HRM's Policing Policy Strategist to define an ARV, information which will be included in HRP's policy.

The Board of Police Commission (BoPC) provides civilian governance and oversight for HRP on behalf of Regional Council. The Board also functions as a Police Advisory Board to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax District as it performs contractual policing services within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

The BoPC will adopt their own policy related to the ARV. HRM's Policing Policy Strategist collaborated with HRP to draft the policy, which was approved by the Board at the May 21 meeting. The BoPC policy has been drafted to ensure the ARV is used responsibly, with oversight, proper training, and regular maintenance to support effective and safe law enforcement operations. It will also include regular reporting requirements for the Chief of Police.

DISCUSSION

Request for Proposal 2025-0134 for one (1) Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) was posted to the bids&tenders bidding system website on April 25, 2025, and closed on May 20, 2025. Three (3) bids were received from the following vendors:

Company Name
Cambli Group Inc.
Roshel Inc
Terradyne Armored Vehicles Inc.

Cambli Group Inc. was determined to be the highest scoring proponent during the solicitation evaluation process for the Request for Proposal. Cambli Group Inc. is a family-owned, Canadian business, located in St. Jean-Sur-Richelieu, Quebec.

As per the terms of request for proposal 2025-0134, Cambli Group Inc. will be supplying and delivering one 2025 or newer Blackwolf Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV).

Delivery of the new equipment is approximately 180 days from date of purchase order. As part of this RFP, the successful vendor will be providing Halifax Regional Municipality a demo ARV on loan until the new unit is constructed and delivered.

SOCIAL VALUE

The Request for Proposal 2025-0134 included a social value component, representing 10% of the total evaluation score, primarily focused on environmental sustainability. Cambli Group Inc.'s proposal demonstrated commitments to emission reduction, fuel efficiency, and lifecycle sustainability.

This procurement also aligns with HRM's strategic priorities by supporting safe communities, responsible administration, and environmental sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Fleet recommends the award of this Request for Proposal 2025-0134 to Cambli Group Inc. based on the highest RFP scoring at the qualified bid price of \$519,800 plus net HST of \$20,049 for a total of \$539,849.

Funding is available in Capital Account No. CV240005 – Police Fleet Expansion for a total of \$539,849 (net HST included)

Budget Summary:	<u>Capital Account No. CV240005</u>	
	Cumulative Uncommitted Budget	\$636,283.91
	Less: Tender No. 2025-0134	<u>\$539,848.69</u>
	Balance	\$ 96,435.22

* The Police Expansion project was estimated in the Approved 2025/26 Capital Budget at \$600,000*

The balance of funds in this capital account will be used for completing post-delivery upfitting and for the purchase of other expansion vehicles for Halifax Regional Police.

RISK CONSIDERATION

If not approved, the HRP will be challenged to meet its employee occupational health and safety obligations. In 2024, the RCMP TAV has been unavailable to HRP an average of 33% of the time due to RCMP calls for service and maintenance.

The failure to award the procurement to the successful bidder will likely have negative repercussions with respect to HRM's employee occupational health and safety obligations.

If approved, there may be negative public opinion of HRP operating an ARV. It is important to note that there will be no weaponry attached to the ARV. The vehicle would provide a secure environment for officers to respond to a variety of emergency calls and safely remove members of the public from dangerous situations. It is not a vehicle that would be seen on the streets of HRM regularly, it would only be used for specific incidents, training, or maintenance purposes and would have strict policies surrounding its use.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community engagement was required for the purpose of creating this report. Public participation on the HRP 2025/26 capital budget was included at the February 12, 2025, meeting of the Halifax Regional Council Budget Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant environmental implications associated with this recommendation. The purchase of this unit should lessen our environmental impact due to being new model year with updated technology.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council may choose to award this procurement to one of the other bidders who have not been determined to be the highest scoring bidder. This option is not recommended as Cambli Group Inc. has been evaluated as the best option from which HRM can procure this vehicle and awarding to another bidder would be expected to result in procurement and legal risks for the Municipality.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39 as amended

79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes if

- a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality;
- b) the expenditure is in respect of an emergency under the Emergency Management Act; or
- c) the expenditure is legally required to be paid.

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Administrative Order 2022-012-ADM, The Procurement Policy

Section 28(1)

The approval authority limits for the awarding of contracts are as follows:

Method	Director	Executive Director	DCAO	CAO	Council
Low Value Purchase	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Competitive or Alternative Procurement	Per delegation of authority from Executive Director [not to exceed \$500,000]	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	Any Amount	Any Amount
Establishment of Standing Offer	\$5,000,000 (Director of Procurement Only)	\$5,000,000 (Executive Director of Finance and Asset	\$5,000,000 (DCAO of Corporate Services only)	Any Amount	Any Amount

		Management only)			
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Section 28(2)(a)

A contract award must be forwarded to Council for approval if:

- (iv) the CAO is of the opinion that the award is a matter best dealt with by Council.

Section 29(2)

The authority to execute procurement contracts on behalf of the Municipality is as follows:

Position	Signing Authority
CAO	Any Contract
Director of Procurement	Any contract where the supplier is bound to the Municipality's standard terms & conditions
DCAO or Executive Director	Any contract where the award has been approved by the DCAO or Executive Director or by an employee in the Executive Director's Department.
Director	Per delegation of authority from their Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

- 1) Armoured Rescue Vehicle Briefing Note (BN12) presented to regional council during 2025/26 Capital Budget process
- 2) Concept picture of recommended ARV, as provided by the recommended vendor

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Natasha Pace
Coordinator, Office of the Chief or Police – Halifax Regional Police

Budget Adjustment List Briefing Note

BN012 - Removal of Armoured F350s – Emergency Response Team

COW Date: March 6, 2025

Business Unit: Halifax Regional Police

Tracking Id	Revenue, Expense, or Capital	2025/26 Amount (negative is savings/revenue)	2026/27 Amount (negative is savings/revenue)
BN012 (BAL_015)	Capital	2024/25 Armoured F350s: \$0 <i>{No savings, sunk cost of \$475K}</i> Equipment Up Fit: (\$37K) Armoured Rescue Vehicle: (\$500K) Equipment Up Fit: (\$100K) Change in Capital Budget: (\$637K)	2024/25 Armoured F350s: \$0 Armoured Rescue Vehicle: \$0 Change in Capital Budget: \$0
	Operating (OCC)	2024/25 Armoured F350s: (\$18K) Armoured Rescue Vehicle: (\$3K) <i>{Est. deployment date of Jan. 2026}</i> Change in Operating Budget: (\$21K)	2024/25 Armoured F350s: (\$18K) Armoured Rescue Vehicle: (\$12K) Change in Operating Budget: (\$30K)
Four Year Impact	2024/25 Armoured F350s: (\$109K savings -> \$37K savings in Capital and \$72K savings in Operating Cost of Capital (OCC)) Armoured Rescue Vehicle: (\$639K savings -> \$600K savings in Capital and \$39K savings in Operating Cost of Capital (OCC)) Total Overall Change in Budget Over 4 Years: (\$748K)		
Adjustment Description	Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a briefing note outlining the impact of removal of Armoured F350s – Emergency Response Team (\$475,000) and Armoured Rescue Vehicle – Emergency Response Team (\$600,000) from G36 of Vehicles, Vessels, and Equipment of the Capital Budget to be considered as an option under budget on the budget adjustment list (BAL) for Budget Committee to consider in the 2025/26 Budget. The briefing note should contain information on type of vehicle (i.e., make, model, photos, or renderings etc.), proposed use of vehicle, and policies for use of vehicle.		
Priority Alignment	Communities – Safe Communities		

Overview

Halifax Regional Police (HRP) is proposing the procurement of an armoured rescue vehicle (ARV) to better protect its officers and the public during high-risk incidents.

Policing is a complex and dangerous job. Every day, officers are sent into a variety of situations with little-to-no information to indicate what they are walking into. While it is not possible to mitigate all risks associated with policing, HRP and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) have a responsibility to provide necessary equipment that is essential to the protection of officers and the public during emergencies.

In keeping with the municipality's Council Priority of Communities, and the Administrative Priority of Our People¹, the procurement of an ARV is an important tool to help reduce the risk of injury to police and the public during high-risk situations. This request also aligns with the Board of Police Commissioners (BoPC) priority² of ensuring police services have the necessary policies, tools, and resources in place to ensure their health and safety, and the health and safety of the public now and into the future.

As one of HRM's emergency service providers, it is critical that HRP plan, prepare and train for potential high-risk situations which could occur within the municipality.

The Portapique mass casualty event in 2020, the Fredericton shooting in 2018, and the Moncton shooting in 2014 are sadly some of the tragic incidents seen in recent years which demonstrate the unimaginable does happen, and unfortunately, can happen close to home.

Armoured Rescue Vehicle

An ARV is a specialized piece of equipment used in critical incidents. An ARV is designed to provide protection during high-risk operations. It is a commercially made four-wheel drive vehicle with reinforced armoured plating to provide enhanced high-level ballistic and fragmentation protection. The vehicle can carry first-responders and travel over varying terrain.

There would be no weaponry attached to the ARV. The vehicle would provide a secure environment for officers to respond to a variety of emergency calls and safely remove members of the public from dangerous situations.

An ARV would be an important tool in our toolkit so that HRP is prepared to respond to serious events. It is not a vehicle that would be seen on the streets of HRM regularly, it would only be used for specific incidents, training, or maintenance purposes and would have strict policies surrounding its use.

An ARV would serve as a general rescue vehicle as well as an Emergency Response Team (ERT) vehicle for the following types of calls:

- Citizen/officer rescue
- Barricaded subject
- Hostage-taking
- Active shooter(s)
- High-risk warrant services

¹ https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/budget-finances/strategicprioritiesplan_final_oct2024-web.pdf

² <https://www.halifax.ca/media/84632>

- VIP details
- Tactical training
- High-risk prisoner escorts
- Any other high-risk situation where there is a reasonable belief a weapon is present and the utilization of the ARV could prevent death or injury to the public or members of the service
- Any other situation if authorized by the Chief of Police or designate including, but not limited to, disaster recovery assistance

HRP would like to assure Regional Council and members of the public that an ARV would not be used for routine crowd control or demonstrations. HRP reviewed, pre-planned, and had some form of a response to 197 demonstrations between January 1, 2023, and February 20, 2025. The RCMP Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV) was not used in any of these instances.

The ARV would also not be used for general patrol duties, parades, community events, or any other non-emergency situation other than those that have been previously listed above.

Current Practice

When a serious incident occurs that exceed the capabilities, equipment, or training of regular patrol members, HRP's Emergency Response Team (ERT) is requested. ERT is selected to attend calls based on a risk assessment. This is the first step in the process. Additional information on the HRP ERT can be found on page 9 below.

Currently, if a high-risk situation were to occur in HRP jurisdiction and it was determined that an ARV would be an appropriate piece of equipment to deploy, a request would need to be made by a senior member of HRP to a senior member of RCMP to utilize their Tactical Armoured Vehicle (TAV - another name for an ARV).

Use of RCMP Tactical Armoured Vehicle

When a critical incident³ occurs, HRP stands up a Critical Incident Command. As part of this package, there would be an Incident Commander who would be responsible to oversee and mitigate the high-risk situation. One of the roles of the Incident Commander is to determine the resources and tools that may be required to deal with the unfolding situation. For example, the Incident Commander may determine that a hostage negotiator be brought in to assist in communicating with a barricaded individual.

The RCMP TAV can be requested for unplanned and planned events. Examples of events that could potentially trigger the use of a TAV include, but are not limited to:

- Active shooter(s)
- Citizen/officer rescue
- Barricaded subject
- High-risk warrant services

³ Critical Incidents are typically unplanned events such as hostage takings, barricaded persons, workplace violence, and other crisis situations.

The current process HRP follows to request the RCMP TAV for a planned event, such as a high-risk warrant service, is as follows:

1. ERT request:

- The Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO)⁴ in charge of the ERT determines if the RCMP TAV is necessary to ensure the safety of both HRP members and the public during the incident
- If the ERT NCO determines the RCMP TAV is necessary, they would present the rationale to the Incident Commander, who has overall operational control

2. Incident Commander Review:

- The Incident Commander would review the ERT request for the RCMP TAV
- If the Incident Commander concurs with the request, a formal documented request is made to the RCMP, outlining all relevant information. The RCMP will thoroughly review the request from HRP and approve or deny it. The HRP Chief of Police is notified of the result

If approved, the TAV would come with four RCMP members who would work alongside HRP's ERT during the incident. In other words, not only does RCMP's TAV need to be in service and available for HRP to use, so too does four of their highly trained police officers.

In exigent circumstances where the incident is rapidly unfolding, such as an active shooter, the regular process for requesting the RCMP TAV may be circumvented given the totality of the circumstances.

The processes noted above ensures that all requests for the RCMP TAV are thoroughly evaluated and approved by the appropriate authorities, whether the situation is planned or arises unexpectedly.

RCMP Tactical Armoured Vehicle Availability

The RCMP's TAV is an asset for all of H Division, meaning there is only one TAV for the entire province of Nova Scotia, stretching from Yarmouth to Meat Cove. If an incident is occurring in Yarmouth, the TAV would not be able to be utilized elsewhere in the province.

Between April 30, 2022, and February 1, 2025, HRP requested the RCMP's TAV in relation to 23 incidents. The chart below outlines the dates and call types the RCMP TAV was requested for during that period.

Date	Type of Call
22-05-04	Search warrant / homicide
22-04-30	Search warrant / firearms
22-05-07	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
22-10-03	Search warrant / firearms
23-05-04	Search warrant/ drugs and firearms
23-04-28	Search warrant/ drugs and firearms
23-05-26	Search warrant/firearms
23-09-28	Search warrant / firearms
23-10-27	Search warrant / firearms

⁴ A non-commissioned officer holds the rank of either Sergeant or Staff Sergeant

Date	Type of Call
23-11-09	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
23-05-04	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
24-03-09	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
24-02-23	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
24-06-17	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
24-07-17	Shooting barricade
24-08-20	Firearms/weapons warrant
24-10-03	Firearms call
24-10-06	Firearms/weapons warrant
24-12-17	Firearms warrant
25-01-02	High-risk warrant
25-01-24	Firearms warrant
25-01-29	Search warrant / drugs and firearms
25-02-01	Homicide arrest warrant

The RCMP's TAV is not always available when HRP requests it. In 2024, the RCMP TAV has been unavailable to HRP an average of 33% of the time due to RCMP calls for service and maintenance.

HRP does not track data related to unsuccessful RCMP TAV requests. The chart below shows four instances which can be recalled when the TAV was not available to HRP. In one of the identified cases, HRP was able to adapt their plans until the TAV was available for their use. Due to the nature of policing, that is not always possible.

Date	Type of Call
23-05-26	Search warrant/firearms – TAV unavailable
24-01-02	High-risk warrant – Originally unavailable
25-01-24	Firearms warrant - Unavailable at time
25-02-01	Homicide warrant – Unavailable – TAV out of town

Like RCMP, HRP would make its ARV available to RCMP or another policing agency within Nova Scotia, if it was required for a high-risk situation and available.

Armoured Rescue Vehicle Policy

The ARV would be used in accordance with policies which will be established and approved by HRP.

HRP's Senior Policy Advisor has completed a jurisdictional scan of several policing agencies across Canada, all of which have their own ARVs. A policy related to ARV use has been drafted and is currently undergoing an internal review process.

Any ARV policy adopted by HRP will state that the ARV is to be approved internally prior to use and will contain direction around permitted and prohibited use of the vehicle. It will also outline how the ARV will be stored and that weekly inspections of the vehicle will take place.

Armoured Rescue Vehicle Appearance

The actual appearance of the ARV would be determined by the recommended vendor based on the procurement process. Although the appearance of the ARV is unknown at this time, the following list outlines the basic specifications that will be part of whatever model ARV is chosen:

- F-550 chassis
- Vehicle Weight – 19,000lbs
- Diesel Powertrain
- Police markings
- Run flat tires
- Loud Hailer
- Emergency Lights
- Winch
- Hydraulic ram
- Chemical munitions injector⁵
- 360-degree observation rotation turret (not enclosed)
- Observation ports
- Infra-Red camera
- Roof mounted thermal camera
- Electric ballistic skirt⁶
- Inward facing jump seats
- Extended rear side steps
- Heated windshield
- NIJ level 4 armour equivalent

Information and photos on two commonly used ARVs by other municipal police forces in Canada can be found in **Attachment 1**.

Armoured Rescue Vehicle Cost and Procurement Process

The estimated cost of the proposed ARV is \$600,000, as identified in the Capital Budget book on page G36⁷. It is anticipated that the life cycle of this vehicle would be 15 to 20 years.

HRM has received estimates from two vendors that were within \$10,000 of each other. Acquisition cost is expected to be under \$500,000. Additional funds have been budgeted to account for any upfitting, customization, inflation, and delivery charges. Property, Fleet & Environment has indicated that any leftover funds would be used towards other planned vehicles purchases. A detailed cost breakdown of the proposed ARV will be available once the contract has been tendered/awarded.

If HRM wishes to purchase a specific ARV, a sole source procurement could be considered as opposed to a competitive tender process. Additional information outlining the differences between a sole source procurement and a competitive tender process can be found on page 9 below.

⁵ Chemical agent munitions are a less lethal option that could be deployed in a critical incident, i.e. pepper spray

⁶ Armour plate protection that descends to the ground to prevent shots being fired under the vehicle

⁷ https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/budget-finances/2025-26-draft-capital-plan_digital.pdf

Armoured Rescue Vehicles in the Canadian Landscape

From coast-to-coast, many urban police forces within Canada have ARV's as part of their operational response capability including, but not limited to, the following policing agencies:

- Toronto Police Service
- Montreal Police Service
- Calgary Police Service
- Peel Regional Police
- Ottawa Police Service
- Edmonton Police Service
- York Regional Police
- Winnipeg Police Service
- Vancouver Police Department
- Durham Regional Police Service
- Halton Regional Police Service
- Waterloo Regional Police Service
- Hamilton Police Service
- Niagara Police Service
- London Police Service
- Saskatoon Police Service
- Regina Police Service
- Saint John Regional Police
- Fredericton Police Service

The majority of the police agencies listed above have had an ARV in operation for more than a decade. Images of the above ARVs can be found at **Attachment 2**.

Health and Safety Complaint

In 2023, HRP's ERT responded to 150 events in an official capacity, 55 of which were deemed to be critical incidents. ERT also recovered 46 firearms during their operations. The type of firearms which were recovered ranged from pistols to high-powered assault style rifles.

These types of events present a high-risk of injury, including the risk of fatalities to officers and the public. An ARV is a means of mitigating the risk of personal injury to officers and the public in these types of high-risk scenarios.

As noted above, HRP currently relies on the RCMP TAV to satisfy its employee occupational health and safety obligations. Repeatedly, the RCMP TAV has been unavailable to HRP due to RCMP operations in Nova Scotia and vehicle maintenance.

There is currently an occupational health and safety complaint before the Nova Scotia Department of Labour in relation to HRP not having the appropriate tools to keep its members safe, in this case, an ARV.

Purchase of F-350 Armoured Trucks

As part of the 2024/25 Capital Budget process, HRP put forward a request for two F-350 armoured trucks, which was approved by HRM. The F-350s will replace existing F-150 trucks, which are not armoured. The F-350s will be used by ERT for day-to-day operations and serve a different function than the proposed ARV.

The F-350s were procured through the public competitive tender process file 2024-0225. The tender was posted on April 8, 2024, and closed April 29, 2024. The purchase award was issued on May 21, 2024. HRM received one submitted qualified bid, and the contract was awarded to Exec Armor in Ontario.

On March 4, 2025, one of the two F-350 armoured trucks was delivered to HRM from the successful vendor for transfer of ownership and payment. The second F-350 armoured truck is tentatively scheduled to be delivered to HRM the week of March 24.

The total cost for these two vehicles is \$474,657 (net HST included). The options regarding the armoured F-350s are as follows:

1. Pay outstanding balance in full and accept the outstanding vehicle upon delivery
2. Pay outstanding balance in full and not accept the outstanding vehicle

The financial impact remains the same as HRM is contractually obligated to pay for the vehicles.

The one remaining F-350 armoured truck is currently in Halifax at an emergency vehicle upfitting vendor. The vehicle is having accessories installed at this location under the direction of the awarded vendor Exec Armor.

The modifications to the F-350s include the following:

- Spacecap installation
- Front reinforced bumper
- Enhanced vehicle electronics to accommodate radios, lighting etc.
- Equipment cabinets installed

Photos of the F-350s can be found in **Attachment 3**.

The F-350 armoured trucks are expected to be available to be placed into service in March or April 2025. Once in service, the F-350s will replace the current fleet of two F-150 trucks currently being used daily by HRP's ERT.

As mentioned above, the current F-150 trucks used by the ERT do not have any armour. Additional differences between the existing F-150 trucks and the F-350 armoured trucks include:

- Run Flat Tire system
- Body panels are reinforced with level 3 armor (sides, roof, and other areas)
- Certified bullet resistant glass
- Hidden reinforced front and rear bumpers
- A rear cap with higher height clearance inside

The F-150 trucks currently being used by the ERT were purchased in 2020 and 2022. They will be re-assigned to replace other aging, poor condition vehicles within HRM Corporate Fleet.

All HRM business units, except for Halifax Transit buses, have their vehicles procured through Corporate Fleet. This is true for Halifax Fire apparatus, snowplows, library vans, parking enforcement vehicles, etc. The reasoning for this is that Corporate Fleet is responsible for the procurement, disposal, repair, and maintenance of all HRM vehicles and mobile equipment, except for Halifax Transit revenue assets (buses).

The F-350s are included in the 2025/26 Capital Budget book only to identify \$475,000 of funds remaining in the Police Expansion account CV240005 as outstanding or potential carryover to the next fiscal due to the vehicles, to date, not being delivered to HRM for transfer of ownership, thus the invoice has not been paid.

Differences between F-350 armoured trucks and an Armoured Rescue Vehicle

The proposed ARV and the F-350 armoured trucks serve different purposes.

The ARV is only to be used in high-risk situations which will be outlined in policy. The F-350 armoured trucks will look like regular trucks and be used daily as the ERT’s primary method of transportation when responding to calls.

Some of the key differences between the ARV and the F-350s include, but are not limited to:

F-350	Armoured Rescue Vehicle
The F-350 has level 3 armour/ ballistic windows. However, armour protection is limited to the cab only	The ARV is fully armoured with level 4 armour – the highest available to police
The F-350 only seats four fully equipped ERT officers	The ARV seats up to 10 persons, including drivers
The F-350 is not able to carry a stretcher	The ARV designed to carry a stretcher for rescues
The F-350 is designed for routine patrol operations	The ARV is not intended for patrol operations. Its purpose is to provide a response to critical incidents such as armed events, warrant services etc.
The F-350 is not able to get close enough to a subject to utilize less lethal tools, conduct negotiations, or utilize other de-escalation methods without having to roll down a window or open the door of the vehicle	The ARV provides a safe platform for police officers to utilize less lethal tools, such as delivering a phone for negotiations. It also provides a face-to-face platform contact for negotiators
The F-350 is able to immediately respond to rapidly unfolding events	The ARV is stored until required for use and not immediately available. The ARV must also have trained drivers and be approved for use
The F-350 cannot be used in all firearm situations due to its armour limitations	The ARV can get much closer to an armed threat because of the level of armour, allowing it to be in close proximity to the threat
There is a diminished ability to provide rescue and aid under fire due to its limited space and armour protection available in the F-350	The ARV can provide lifesaving rescue to citizens and police officers while under fire due to its level of armour. It is also able to transport multiple people,

F-350	Armoured Rescue Vehicle
	including injured parties, given its size and ability to carry a stretcher

Additional Information

Halifax Regional Police Emergency Response Team

The Halifax Regional Police (HRP) Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a full-time unit of highly trained individuals. ERT is comprised of 17 members (three Non-Commissioned Officers or NCOs and 14 Constables).

HRPs ERT mandate is to respond to high-risk calls that exceed the capabilities, equipment or training of regular patrol members.

Included in these types of calls are:

- Armed and Barricaded Persons
- Hostage situations
- High-risk arrests
- High-risk warrant
- High-risk K-9 tracks
- Close protection details

All ERT members must have one year of police experience prior to applying to ERT and have completed a Tactical Operators Course. They also engage in continuous and scheduled training to ensure all mandatory training requirements are met. Some ERT members also have a higher level of medical training.

Sole Source Procurement versus Competitive Tender Process

Sending a vehicle to tender is a competitive procurement process to ensure that HRM, as a public entity, achieves best value for money while maintaining transparency, fairness, openness and consistency within the vendor community. Decisions are based on clear, well-defined criteria, ensuring compliance with all applicable legislation. This process is published publicly to attract the most qualified bidders so that the award is based on desired outcomes.

A sole source procurement is a type of alternative procurement that must meet defined criteria as set out in Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) and Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) trade agreements, with specific requirements that must be met to justify the use of an Alternative Procurement.

This specific purchase is subject to both trade agreements, HRM's Procurement Policy, Administrative Order 2022-012-ADM aligns with these agreements.

In instances where a sole source is considered, due diligence will be performed, as alternative procurement methods cannot be used to bypass competitive procurement processes.

Attachment 1 – Cambli Blackwolf and the Terradyne Gurkha MPV

Attachment 2 – Armoured Rescue Vehicles in the Canadian landscape

Attachment 3 - F-350 Armoured Truck photos

Attachment 1 - Cambli Blackwolf and the Terradyne Gurkha MPV

The Cambli Blackwolf and Terradyne Gurkha MPV

The Cambli Blackwolf and Terradyne Gurkha MPV are two armoured rescue vehicles that are commonly used by other municipal police forces across Canada. A description of each is below for reference:

Cambli Blackwolf:

- Manufactured in Quebec, Canada
- Cambli submitted a bid to HRM during the ARV procurement process in 2019 and scored second
- This vehicle currently used by the Fredericton Police Force, the Saint John Police Force and RCMP
- The speed of the vehicle is identified as:
 - 0-60km/h: 8.5 seconds
 - 0-100km/h: 18.9 seconds
 - Top Speed: 155 km/h
- Video of the vehicle can be found [here](#) (please note, some accessories seen in the video are optional)

Sample Photos of the Cambli Blackwolf:





Terradyne Gurkha MPV:

- Manufactured in Ontario
- This was the successful bidder during HRM's procurement process in 2019, which was ultimately cancelled
- This vehicle is currently used by Halton Regional Police Service and the Winnipeg Police Service
- The top speed is identified as 110km/h

Both the Cambli Blackwolf and the Terradyne Gurkha MPV would be constructed on a Ford F550 or F650 4X4 chassis, due to the ARV being a larger heavier vehicle.

Sample Photos of the Terradyne Gurkha MPV:





Attachment 2 - Armoured Rescue Vehicles in the Canadian landscape

Armoured Rescue Vehicles in the Canadian Landscape

The following images depict the Armoured Rescue Vehicles (ARVs) of other Canadian policing agencies.

1. Toronto Police Service



2. Montreal Police Service



3. Calgary Police Service



4. Peel Regional Police



5. Ottawa Police Service



6. Edmonton Police Service



7. York Regional Police



8. Winnipeg Police Service



9. Vancouver Police Department



10. Durham Regional Police Service



11. Halton Reginal Police Service



MPV

Chassis:
Ford F550 4x4
Engine Options:
6.7L V8 turbo diesel
6.8L V10 gas engine
Transmission:
6 speed automatic
Transfer Case:
2-speed transfer case with
electronic shift on the fly 4x4
Fuel Capacity:
40 gallons / 151 L
GVWR:
19,500 lbs / 8,845 kg
Curb Weight:
16,800 lbs / 7,620 kg
Top Speed:
Tire rated @ 81 mph / 130 km/h
Transportability:
USAF air transport certified for C-
130, C-17 & C-5 aircraft



PROTECTION WITH PRESENCE

INTERIOR



INTERIOR



OPTIONAL FOLDING JUMP SEATS



PROTECTION WITH PRESENCE

12. Waterloo Regional Police Service



13. Hamilton Police Service



14. Niagara Police Service



15. London Police Service



16. Saskatoon Police Service



17. Regina Police Service



18. Saint John Regional Police



19. Fredericton Police Force



Attachment 3 - F-350 Armoured Truck photos

F-350 Armoured Truck

The image below is a reference picture of an F-350 with Space Kap.



The image below shows the driver's side view of the actual F-350 armoured truck that was purchased.



The image below shows the actual Space Kap that will be installed on the F-350 armoured truck.





Developed and
manufactured in
Canada

