

Date: May 11, 2022
To: Board of Finance
From: Mortlake Fire Company
Subject: Hurst Tool Capital Project

The question was asked: Are any of the existing Hurst Tools being replaced with this new capital purchase? The answer to that is

The Company is not immediately replacing all existing equipment. A full complement of extrication equipment will be kept in service on the truck which will include a minimum of 2 of each type of tool; spreaders, cutters, rams, and combi-tool. Any equipment replaced will be done by taking the oldest either out of service or placing it (if possible) on a different piece of apparatus.

Consideration will be given to the possible sale of used equipment, however, the majority of our older pieces are over 20 years old and no longer have repair parts available should something break or fail, so the market may be quite limited and the value low for such consideration. This, along with modern ergonomics and usability by fewer personnel of updated tools are large reasons for the request of funding.

All the existing tools will remain in operation at this time. The rescue truck has a built-in power unit that runs off the generator of the truck and powers all the current tools on the truck. These tools are two spreaders, two rams, one cutter and one combi-tool. These tools operate off three individual 100' hose reels that power the units. The department does carry one battery operated cutter on the rescue which was purchased used in 2016 and does operate. This unit will be carried as a spare.

The rescue truck is also equipped with a spare portable electric power unit which can operate the tools off any other truck equipped with a generator. Also carried on the rescue truck is a gas-powered power unit that can be deployed into the woods or anywhere off-road where a Hurst tool is required to extricate someone. These units will be phased out once the battery powered units are purchased. Deploying the gas-powered unit off road would require a minimum of 4 individuals while the new battery-operated tools can be carried by one firefighter.

The new Hurst Tools being purchased are battery powered tools that are lighter weight and can be operated by one individual. The present tools are heavy and cumbersome to operate and to deploy them efficiently requires 2/3 people. The present tools are kept in good operating order and ready to be deployed. These tools may be old, but are still reliable. Once annually these tools are checked and serviced by a local vendor to ensure that they are ready to operate. We have been told that these tools should be replaced because parts to keep them operational are becoming scarce and not always available.

When Mortlake responds to calls especially during the day, we may have a limited number of people plus the ambulance crew responding with us. We presently dispatch 2 departments for all MVA's (motor vehicle accidents) to ensure that we have adequate personnel to handle the incident and everything that goes along with it. Especially during the day, we may still be lacking sufficient personnel to handle the incident safely and accomplish everything that needs to get done.

Our first responsibility at an incident is scene safety which means stabilizing the vehicles involved, disconnecting the batteries to lessen the chance for ignition of flammables that might be leaking. While one or two members do scene safety, the ambulance crew is starting patient care if it is safe to do at the time. If extrication is needed to free a patient, the Hurst tools are deployed to free the patient which means waiting for at least 2 people to free up to start extrication.

During extrication the first consideration is to ensure the patient(s) are protected and that the safety of the other first responders are also considered.

With these new tools, one individual can deploy and operate the tool with little assistance which allows the others to handle other assignments. The present old tools require engaging the system on the truck, dragging out the unit you're going to use, dragging out the hose off the reel, checking the unit to ensure it is operational and then proceeding to the incident to start extrication. We must all keep in mind that we operate with the understanding that we must deliver a patient to the trauma unit within one hour or what we refer to as the golden hour for best survival rate. Sometimes that might require air transporting of the patient.

- The capital request that Mortlake made was for the following Hurst tools:
 - Hurst S799 E3 cutter package
 - Hurst SP777 E3 spreader package
 - Hurst SC358 E3 Combi package
 - Hurst R522 E3 Ram package
 - KSV11 chain set

These units are all battery operated and come with a one-year warranty. Consider these units as similar to the operation of a cordless drill with no wires to drag behind you. Additionally, these units are designed to be used on today's modern constructed vehicles. While the older tools are capable of doing the job, the newer tool will accomplish this with greater ease and timeliness.

- Why doesn't Mortlake Apply for grants?
 - When the Mortlake Fire Company became incorporated, Mortlake filed for a tax-exempt status and filed for a 501(c)(4). We have been trying to have the tax-exempt status changed to a 501(c)(3) and we are working to get this accomplished sometime in the near future. This will allow for a greater pool of grants to apply to and increase our eligibility for funding. When filing for many grants, you must be a 501(c)(3) and that is why we are trying to have it changed.
 - Mortlake is a volunteer organization and we have no paid staff to do grant writing nor do we have personnel that we would consider qualified to write grants. Most of the grants that we do receive, just require us to fill in the blanks and furnish a limited amount of documentation to justify the grant.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Breen, Chief
Mortlake Fire Company