



# The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

## Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Subject: SRW.23.20 2023 Municipal Tree Maintenance

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

Appendices: None

---

### **Recommendation**

Be It Resolved that Council hereby,

1. Approve the rental of the 2015 Ponsse Scorpion King Harvester from Eccles Forestry Ltd., at an amount of \$350.00 per hour;
2. That the project be funded through Project Account #01-2513 – Transportation – Roads – Roadside in the amount of approximately \$15,400.00;
3. That Council authorizes the sale of any viable commercial grade logs to Eccles Forestry Ltd., at market price to assist with offsetting the costs of this project; and
4. That Council grant an exemption to By-Law No. 59-09 – Procurement Policy under Section 4.7 (b) – goods and services are available from only one source.

---

### **Report Summary**

The intent of this report is to receive Council approval to proceed with a contract with Eccles Forestry Ltd., for the rental of their 8-wheeled harvester to remove several dead or diseased trees within the Municipality.

---

### **Background**

In 2022, Council approved a contract with a qualified arborist to assist with the removal of dead or deteriorating trees mainly in the communities of Chesley, Tara and Paisley. The work that was completed was done over a 12 day period with the assistance of public works staff.

This year the focus would be on the removal of the dead or diseased/deteriorating trees (ash trees) in the rural area of the Municipality.

Staff would like to continue with tree removal efforts this fall and have been successful in single sourcing a contractor that has extensive experience in forest management.

---

## **Analysis**

Staff have been in contact with Eccles Forestry Ltd., a professional forest management company located in Durham, Ontario with over 36 years of experience in the field.

Eccles Forestry owns a 2015 Ponsse Scorpion King Harvester, pictured below.



This is an 8 wheeled tree harvester. The wheels allow this machine to travel the road surfaces without causing damages. The machine also has removable tracks if needed.

The machine is capable of cutting the tree, placing it where the operator wishes. It will remove the branches and top of the tree and then cut the tree stem to desired log lengths. Logs and debris can be placed in piles or designated areas. The cab is surrounded in break resistant windows for optimal viewing and this protects the operator and possible passenger from any potential deadly hazards, such as falling limbs. This is a major benefit when dealing with declining ash and any trees with dead tops. The crane has a turning angle of 280 degrees and a reach of up to 36 feet. This reach helps to dissect the tops of large, challenging trees with heavy limbs. The harvester is able to cut trees up to 24 inches in diameter comfortably.

Eccles Forestry Ltd is fully covered with liability insurance and WSIB. Trees that are located where hydro lines are present are the responsibility of Hydro One and will not be cut for safety and liability reasons.

The goal of hiring Eccles Forestry would be to harvest the trees and place them in the ditch and Municipal Staff would complete the cleanup and removal of the remaining wood. The work would be completed this fall.

Any logs that are commercial grade logs could be purchased by Eccles Forestry for current market value, assisting to offset the costs of the tree removal.

Similar tree harvesting machines are not equipped with tracks which does not provide the opportunity to travel on the roadway. Staff anticipate that a larger number of trees will be eradicated since there is no need to load and unload equipment or set up at each removal site. Due to this factor, Staff are requesting an exemption to the Procurement Bylaw to sole source the equipment to complete the work.

---

### **Link to Strategic/Master Plan**

6.1 Protecting Infrastructure, Recreation and Natural Assets

6.4 Leading Financial Management

---

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy**

The cost to rent the machine is \$350.00 per hour.

Funding of \$18,226 is available in the operating budget through account #01-2513 – Transportation – Roads – Roadside

Staff are proposing rental of the equipment for one full week, 44 hours, at an approximate cost of \$15,400.00. The costs could be potentially offset by the purchase of commercial grade logs from the Municipality by Eccles Forestry Ltd.

---

Approved by: Sylvia Kirkwood, Chief Administrative Officer