

## Back up information for UTV Warrant Article request

### History

Barrington has in the last 30 plus years place a number of large parcels of land into conservation with an eye toward, conserving open space, protecting our natural resources and allowing year-round passive recreation opportunities to our residents and guests, including hiking, rock climbing, hunting, nature trails and snowmobiling to name a few.

Currently Barrington has approximately 5500 acres of conserved land that many people use for recreation purposes, with this comes the added risk of injury and or wildfire caused by unattended illegal campfires or careless disposal of smoking materials.

Over the years we have seen an uptick in emergency calls to some of the conserved land, and I see no indication that the service requests will go down anytime soon. In FY 2020 we have responded for lost or injured hikers 8 times and 2 brush fires.

### Proposal

The estimated cost of this project is between \$30,000 and \$32,000. I am asking the Select-board to support a warrant article to be presented to the voters in March 2021 to purchase and equip a new UTV (Ultra Terrain Vehicle) with an open trailer, for up to \$32,000. The Firemen's Association voted unanimously to pay half the cost that the taxpayers pay.

I have reached out to the Barrington Conservation Commission about a donation toward this project, the Chairman agrees that it is a worthwhile project and has agreed to add it to their agenda at a future meeting. I also intend to speak to the Southeast Land Trust about supporting this project financially as well.

How we got to the \$30,000 figure:

New UTV	\$17,000
Winch	\$1,000
Tracks	\$5,500
Forestry Skid unit	\$3,000
Trailer	\$3,000
Misc. equipment	\$1,000
Total	\$30,500

Liability Insurance, Workmen's Compensation Insurance, maintenance, registration and related training will be minimal and shall be absorbed in the annual fire & rescue budget.

50 % match from the Firemen's Association and no funding from SELT or the Con Com costs the taxpayers \$15,250. Any money from the Con Com or SELT would reduce both the town and Fire Association liability evenly.

It is our intention for this unit to be a town emergency services asset that would serve both the Fire & Rescue department as well as the Police Department would have full access to this vehicle as well for both emergency and non-emergency use, including both red and blue emergency warning lights.

The Forestry skid unit would carry water a pump and some forestry hand tools which could be easily removed in the event we needed it for a medical or search event, or if the police were using it for enforcement or investigation or remote property checks.

This vehicle would be stored inside year-round either in the storage garage or the apparatus bay depending on the season for easy access to both Fire & Police.

Pending voter approval, a vehicle spec would be developed and within town policy we would put out a competitive bid package for this project. With an eye toward having the vehicle in place by late spring/early summer 2021.

Search and recovery operations are very manpower intensive, many times day crews during the week are limited to the current day crew and 3-4 people all of which are over the age of 60.

Weather or not you personally agree with this project(I hope you do) I merely ask that you all agree that the project has enough merit to stand on it's own, place it on the warrant and let the voters decide.

I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully  
Rick Walker