



Water trucks put on hold for sponsor search

steve collins

29 April 2010 05:37

Ottawa's Water Mobile program, which would pay for two trucks to provide free drinking water at summer festivals and the possibility of finding a corporate sponsor to foot the bill.

Citing the water department's \$5.579-million deficit, Coun. Bob Monette had introduced a motion to outright kill the \$200,000 program and reduce waste from the use of bottled water.

"I'm 58 years old," he said. "I remember for at least 55 years I've been drinking city water.

Never once did I have to have a Water Mobile to tell me that the water was safe to drink."

Other Ontario municipalities, including Guelph, have similar programs. Council had originally voted in favour of the water

The \$200,000 cost for the program includes \$120,000 for the purchase of two trucks, with annual costs of \$34,000 to operate and to hire three summer students.

Arguing in favour of the Water Mobiles, Coun. Peter Hume compared the trucks in terms of expense and promotional impact and the other's for politicians. We won't cut the one for politicians but we'll cut the one for water, because we all want to

An amendment by Coun. Marianne Wilkinson to buy only one truck instead of two, at a total cost of \$100,000, was defeated.