1. Introduction

This paper follows on previous authors’ publications focused on the assessment of economic data of firefighting appliances based on the chassis Renault Midlum and Mercedes-Benz Atego [1], [2]. These vehicles were deployed at professional units of the Fire and Rescue Service of the Zlín and Moravian-Silesian Region during the reporting period. This paper shows results of alternative calculations of theoretical economic lifetime of observed appliances. The comparison of results for all the assessed vehicles is performed in the conclusion.

2. Characteristics of observed firefighting and rescue appliances

Essential tactical-technical characteristics of the assessed appliances TATRA can be traced in the literature, e.g. [3], [4]. Key operational and economic characteristics of the monitored equipment for the period October 2013 to November 2016 are shown in the Table 1. All three vehicles were bought at the same time, with the purchase price CZK 5,626,467 (221,427.28 €). Those appliances started to operate on October 17, 2013. The primary operational data from the information system IKIS II were exported into Excel file and then used for the assessment of operation and maintenance costs of those vehicles [5].

3. Methods

Economic life of the vehicle can be generally characterized as reaching the limit state when further operation is economically unsustainable [6]. The economic efficiency of the investment is calculated to assess the economic life of the technical system in the business environment. This procedure would be relatively difficult to apply for the evaluation of firefighting appliances. The methodology of these calculations is based on the input data extremely difficult to define in the sphere of public service [7], [8]. One of the reasons for the impossibility of using this calculation method is the requirement of the initial setting of the technical system’s lifetime. The approximate lifetime can be only theoretically estimated or assumed from the Machinery Service Order [9] in which approximate lifetimes of firefighting appliances are set. The 10 years long standard lifetime of the rescue firefighting vehicle is prolonged for next 6 years after technical improvement.
The total value of firefighting appliances \( N(t) \) is a sum of Equation (1) and Equation (2):

\[
N_c(t) = C \cdot e^{-h} + A \cdot e^{\beta t}. 
\]  

Then, one calculates the local extreme of this function by modification of Equation (3). The local extreme \( (N(t) \) minimum in this case) represents the optimal time \( T_{opt} \) for replacing the appliance:

\[
T_{opt} = \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta} \ln \left( \frac{\alpha \cdot C}{\beta \cdot A} \right). 
\]  

Therefore, the calculation of the monitored vehicles’ economic life was performed by use of the two simple and generally known methods, the exponential trends method and the Brown method [10], [11]. Calculations according to both methods were performed for a 4-year operation time period. The residual value of appliances, which is one of data used for calculations, was variously calculated according to the Act No. 586/1992 Coll. on Income Taxes [12], and according to the Expert Standard No. I/2005 - Valuation of motor vehicles [13].

3.1 The Exponential trend method

Theoretical foundations of the method were published in 1963 [14]. The principle is displayed graphically in Figure 1.

This method is based on the theoretical assumption that the value of firefighting appliances in time \( N(t) \) has the shape of downward sloping exponential curve [10]. The curve is defined by the equation:

\[
N_c(t) = C \cdot e^{-h}. 
\]  

Similarly, one can define the trend of costs for maintenance and repairs \( N_u(t) \) by using an upward sloping exponential curve according to the equation:

\[
N_u(t) = A \cdot e^{\beta t}. 
\]  

Table 1  Basic characteristics of referred vehicles during years 2013-2016

| Vehicle location | Registration mark | Year | Mileage  | Amount of fuel | Maintenance and repair costs | Cumulative costs |
|-----------------|-------------------|------|----------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|                 |                   |      | [km]     | [l]            | [CZK]                      | [EUR]           |
| Vyskov          | 5B4 3485          | 2013 | 0        | 3,218          | 1,722                       | 0               | 0               |
|                 |                   | 2014 | 1        | 5,269          | 3,061                       | 7,074           | 278.39          |
|                 |                   | 2015 | 2        | 10,149        | 4,756                       | 23,414          | 921.45          |
|                 |                   | 2016 | 3        | 7,721          | 4,438                       | 43,343          | 1,705.75        |
| Pozorice        | 5B4 3487          | 2013 | 0        | 2,800          | 1,614                       | 0               | 0               |
|                 |                   | 2014 | 1        | 4,050          | 2,846                       | 0               | 0               |
|                 |                   | 2015 | 2        | 8,526          | 6,231                       | 45,898          | 1,806.28        |
|                 |                   | 2016 | 3        | 5,819          | 4,259                       | 24,019          | 945.24          |
| Tisnov          | 5B4 3486          | 2013 | 0        | 3,198          | 1,493                       | 0               | 0               |
|                 |                   | 2014 | 1        | 8,508          | 4,827                       | 17,721          | 697.39          |
|                 |                   | 2015 | 2        | 9,716          | 5,347                       | 41,965          | 1,651.51        |
|                 |                   | 2016 | 3        | 8,153          | 4,731                       | 24,019          | 945.24          |

Figure 1 Fundamentals of operation research [14]
The initial technical value of the group \( \text{THSN} = 100\% \), technical condition changes \( \text{TS} = 0.0\% \) and the relative group proportion value \( \text{PDS} = 100\% \) were applied in the equation, in the case of maintained and operational firefighting appliances. Basic amortization \( ZA \) which is calculated as the arithmetic average of the following equation was the only variable in the Equation (6):

\[
ZA = ZADZ + ZAP. 
\] (7)

The \( ZAD \) parameter is the basic percent reduction during the operation defined in Annex No. 1.4 of the Expert Standard [13] and ranges from 20\% in the first year of operation to 90\% in the tenth and following year of operation. The \( ZAP \) parameter \( \% \) determines the percentage of the basic reduction for the mileage (see ibid.).

4. Results

Overall results of calculations are stated in the following tables and graph exemplifications of which are evident constants and coefficients exponents values used for the calculations in Equation (4) and Equation (5).

A significant decrease in the residual value of all the observed vehicles was elicited by calculating according to the Act on Income Tax [12], as shown in Figure 2 on the case of the vehicle registration number 5B4 3485 from the fire station Vyskov. The difference in results of the residual value calculations according to the Expert Standard [13] is shown in Figure 3. It is evident that the Expert Standard is more suitable under consideration the mileage of the firefighting appliance. This can significantly affect the vehicle wearing. Finally, the Expert Standard gives the higher residual value of the particular vehicle at the end of the year 2016, which is closer to its market value.

Results of the repair cost functions calculations according to both the exponential trend method and the Brown method, can be seen in Figure 4 and Figure 5. Those results for all three vehicles are distorted by the fact that the vehicles are under warranty. Each vehicle has travelled an average of 3000km in less than

\[
\text{Figure 2} \quad \text{The residual value according to the Act on Income Tax}
\]

\[
\text{Figure 3} \quad \text{The residual value according to the forensic Expert Standard}
\]
Results while using depreciation according to the Expert Standard [13]. Both results were obtained by applying the exponential trend method. Compared to the previous calculations published in [1], [2], the impact of the residual value method had not such a significant effect on the resulting economic lifetime in the case of vehicles deployed at stations Vyskov and Pozorice.

Total maintenance and repair costs in particular years and B-coefficient values for the theoretic recovery time calculating are summarized in Table 4. Figure 5 shows the linear trend of the cumulative cost. Both the curve, and its mathematical expression with the B-coefficient used for the calculation according to Equation (5) were automatically generated by the MS Excel.

Results acquired by the Brown method with using the linear trends are shown in Table 5. Calculations confirmed again that the Brown method application is not optimal for firefighting appliances. The use of this method has its shortcomings. The method was formulated for rail vehicles, which have high initial costs and the expected technical life is considerably longer than 10 years. For example, the rail kit RegioSprinter BR 654 costs CZK 47 million (1.85 million Euros) within the technical lifetime of 25 years. Application of this method assumes steady repair costs, as well as costs increasing with time. To evaluate the lifetime of less costly firefighting vehicles then the results are not those we expected.

Further distortions in the trend of maintenance and repair costs might be caused by vehicle accidents. The vehicle 5B4 3485 from Vyskov Station had two traffic accidents in 2014 and afterwards it was out of service for almost six months - from February 3 to May 22, when repair costs reached approximately CZK 268,000 (10,547.03 €), and then from August 9 to October 14, when repair cost amount was approximately CZK 220,000 (8,658.01 €). The operating load of that vehicle was about 5300 km in 2014. The vehicle 5B4 3487 from Pozorice Station had one traffic accident in the year 2014, and was out of operation from February 2 to May 5 (the repair cost increased to CZK 746,000, that was 29,358.52 €). The operating load of that vehicle was about 4000 km in 2014. The recorded maintenance and repair costs are zero for this vehicle in 2014.

Depreciation results, according to the Act on Income Tax [12], are presented in Table 2. Table 3 displays variant calculations

| Vehicle location | Registration mark | $A$ [CZK] | $\beta$ [-] | Correlation coefficient $R$ | $C$ [CZK] | $\alpha$ [-] | Correlation coefficient $R$ |
|------------------|------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| Vyskov           | 5B4 3485         | 7,074     | 1.2303   | 0.99                    | 5,626,467 | 0.3122   | 0.94                    |
| Pozorice         | 5B4 3487         | 45,898    | 0.4209   | 1.00                    | 5,626,467 | 0.3122   | 0.94                    |
| Tisnov           | 5B4 3486         | 17,721    | 0.8639   | 0.94                    | 5,626,467 | 0.3122   | 0.94                    |

Three months of use during the year 2013 and underwent the first servicing under warranty conditions, i.e. free of charge. In terms of the traffic load, an average number of the rescue exits per vehicle was only 16, but there were 38 condition rides when the vehicle was not overloaded (in 2013). Hence, there was not much opportunity for the occurrence of a failure. From a mathematical point of view, this additionally means that the exponential curve, describing the development of maintenance and repair costs, begins since 2014, when these costs were non-zero.
For example, the conception of the Czech Ministry of the Interior of 2007 [15] refers that the average age of firefighting appliance at units of the

Correlation coefficients of each interleaved curve for the two vehicles are very low. However, the calculated theoretical lifetime of the monitored equipment is closer to the real technical lifetime, from the economic life point of view. For example, the conception of the Czech Ministry of the Interior of 2007 [15] refers that the average age of firefighting appliance at units of the

| Vehicle location | Registration mark | Year | Maintenance and repair costs [CZK] | Vehicle purchase price [CZK] | Maintenance and repair costs in [%] of the purchase price | Coefficient B | $R^2$ | $R$ |
|------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|-----|
| Vyskov 5B4 3485  |                   | 2013 | 0                                 | 5,626,467                   | 0.00                                                      | 0.2601        | 0.9615 | 0.98 |
|                  |                   | 2014 | 1                                 | 7,074                       | 0.13                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2015 | 2                                 | 23,414                      | 0.42                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2016 | 3                                 | 43,343                      | 0.77                                                      |               |      |     |
| Pozorice 5B4 3487|                   | 2013 | 0                                 | 5,626,467                   | 0.00                                                      | 0.2096        | 0.4760 | 0.69 |
|                  |                   | 2014 | 1                                 | 0                           | 0.00                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2015 | 2                                 | 45,898                      | 0.82                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2016 | 3                                 | 24,019                      | 0.43                                                      |               |      |     |
| Tisnov 5B4 3486  |                   | 2013 | 0                                 | 5,626,467                   | 0.00                                                      | 0.1712        | 0.5150 | 0.72 |
|                  |                   | 2014 | 1                                 | 17,721                      | 0.31                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2015 | 2                                 | 41,965                      | 0.75                                                      |               |      |     |
|                  |                   | 2016 | 3                                 | 24,019                      | 0.43                                                      |               |      |     |
Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic exceeds 15 years and at units of the Voluntary Fire Brigades of the Czech Republic more than 29 years. However, such old vehicles have already been technologically obsolete.

5. Conclusion

The clear outcome resulted from the presented calculations, that the calculated optimal economic lifetime of the monitored firefighting appliances is only theoretical. The average value 4.4 years for exponential trends is out of reality. On the contrary, in accordance with the Brown method, the minimum economic lifetime of almost 28 years in the case of a vehicle deployed at the Vyskov fire station is beyond the expected technical life, which reaches maximum of 25 years for the rebuilt vehicles [15].

Compared to previous calculations for firefighting appliances based on chassis Renault Midlum [1], the average theoretical economic lifetime for exponential trend method was 6.5 years. Calculations for firefighting vehicles, based on Mercedes-Benz Atego chassis [2], showed the average theoretical economic lifetime of up to 8.0 years. Both vehicle groups were assessed for a 5-year period of operation. The longer time series resulted in the better regression functions of recorded maintenance and repair costs. For example, Brown recommends at least 8 years period for rail vehicles [10].

The next paper on the same topic, was published in the conference proceedings of the International Scientific Conference on Fire Protection, Safety and Security 2017 [16]. The firefighting appliances, based on the MAN TGM chassis, deployed at Fire Brigades of the Czech Republic in South Moravian Region were assessed in that paper. For those vehicles, the assessed period of operation was 6 years. The average theoretical lifetime from an economic point of view was 6.4 years, with using the exponential trends method. Those examples confirmed that a longer time series for evaluating maintenance and repair costs increase the economic lifetime.

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