



COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2006

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	July 19, 2010
FROM:	General Manager, Finance & Technology	FILE:	1070-01/1075-01
SUBJECT:	Computer Network Upgrade		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the purchase of computer network hardware, software and technical consulting with a total cost of \$510,000, plus GST and PST from Bell Canada.

BACKGROUND

The City's main computer network serves City Hall and all other networked City locations. There are two central devices, located in City Hall, called 'core' switches, which are the primary controllers for the network. There are also four 'group' switches that serve the data centre servers and sixty smaller 'edge' switches that control data traffic throughout the City's networked locations. All of these network components rely heavily on a network firewall to provide secure access to the Internet that will in turn, protect our networks from unauthorized access.

This equipment has reached the end of its useful life span. The network design no longer meets the City's growing business needs, which now demand very high availability. The replacement of network equipment will position the City to deliver sound performance, reliability, security and scalability as new technologies and business applications are added. Some examples include additional fire dispatch services, e-Government Internet services, enterprise content management, and new telephony technologies.

DISCUSSION

In October 2006 the City issued a Request for Proposal to upgrade the City's computer network with our existing equipment. The request included two city hall 'core' switches, two server 'group' switches, fifty-five 'edge' switches, replacement firewall, software to manage this equipment and consulting, design, configuration, and installation services.

The City invited seven companies to participate in this RFP and received proposals from the following:

- Compugen;
- Boardwalk;
- Telus, and
- Bell Canada.

An extensive evaluation process followed that included rating all of the responses against a set of pre-determined and weighted criteria and related costs. These criteria included breadth of experience in similar initiatives, record of achievement, corporate viability, qualifications of personnel, level of relationship with the manufacturer, added value, and references from other organizations, combined with the financial criteria of cost of product, consulting services, and ongoing maintenance. The proposal from Bell Canada was about 2% higher than the lowest bidder. However, the evaluation team selected Bell Canada, as the vendor of choice, who best demonstrated their ability to provide the required services and equipment within the parameters outlined in the RFP.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the City's Purchase Policy, it is recommended that Council approve that the City enter into a contract with Bell Canada for the purchase of network equipment and services to upgrade the City's main computer network, at an upset cost of \$510,000, plus GST and PST. Funding is available in the Capital Replacement Reserve Fund for Information Technology.

Vivienne Wilke, CGA General Manager, Finance & Technology

