



Corporate Report

NO: R143

COUNCIL DATE: JUNE 25, 2007

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: June 21, 2007
FROM: General Manager, Engineering FILE: 3802-001/11
SUBJECT: Additional Contract Authority for Traffic Signal and
Street Light Maintenance Contract (Contract M.S. 10.03.01)

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council approve \$766,500 excluding GST of additional contract authority for the street light wire theft component of contract M.S. 10.03.01.

DISCUSSION

Street light Wire Theft

Street light copper wire theft occurrences for the first half of 2007 are shown below. As can be seen, theft peaked during February of 2007 and since February, occurrences have dropped continually through March, April and May.

Monthly Losses

January 2007	\$120,000
February 2007	421,500
March 2007	130,000
April 2007	55,000
May 2007	<u>40,000</u>
	\$766,500

Cobra Electric attended 290 locations in the City with wire theft or attempted wire theft between January 1 and April 30. City staff and Cobra Electric staff have worked closely with the RCMP to apprehend suspects, and several individuals were charged in mid-February. It appears these individuals were responsible for a considerable amount of wire theft in the City.

Wire theft is being dealt with under an overall strategy which includes: coordination of municipal by-laws regarding scrap and salvaged materials, request for Provincial legislation on these materials, increased police attention and monitoring for wire theft and the installation of anti-theft devices on street lights.

With regards to the anti-theft devices, the City has continued to implement lockable street light hand hole covers at locations that have experienced wire theft or attempted wire theft. A new device located inside the street light pole designed to deter wire theft will be implemented on street lights in new development areas. This new device is now specified for land development projects.

Due to the extensive street light wire theft primarily during January, February and March of 2007, an additional \$766,500 excluding GST of additional contract authority will be required. Funding for this loss is available from the City's self-insurance fund. June figures are not available yet but are anticipated to be less than May and can be covered within contract contingency amount.

FUNDING

Funding of the additional contract authority required for the street light wire theft component of the above contract is available from the City's Risk Management Claims Operating Account.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

PH/BW/brb

c.c. - Jeff Schaafsma, Manager, Risk Management