

NO: R260

COUNCIL DATE: December 13, 2010

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **December 3, 2010**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation
and Culture** FILE: **0350-01**

SUBJECT: **Award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 - Tree Pruning**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve the award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 for the pruning of street trees and park trees to B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. in the amount of \$650,000.00 plus HST.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval for the award of a contract for the pruning of park and street trees in 2011.

BACKGROUND

The City manages approximately 70,000 street trees and 15,000 parks trees that require a range of regular maintenance activities, including structural pruning. On average, street trees are pruned every five years and park trees are pruned every ten years. In total, approximately 20,000 trees are pruned each year in accordance with best management practices and recognized tree pruning standards. Approximately 20% of the annual pruning work is carried out by City staff with the remainder contracted to a qualified tree service company.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 1220-30-36-10 for Annual Tree Pruning Services was issued by the City. The RFP required proponents to submit unit pricing for various tree pruning crew alignments as well as information that would allow the City to evaluate whether the proponent had the capacity, qualifications, knowledge and skills to undertake the necessary work.

Each of two suppliers submitted a proposal; these being:

- Davey Tree Expert Company of Canada (“Davey Tree”); and
- B.C. Plant Health Care Inc.

DISCUSSION

Evaluation of Proposals:

The proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Sufficient capacity both in terms of human resources and equipment to undertake the work;
- Sufficient skill set to undertake the full range of duties required under the contract (i.e., required arborist certification, required tree climbing certification, etc.);
- Demonstrated experience to undertake the work of the contract; and
- Cost to complete the required work.

Based on these criteria, B.C. Plant Health Care proposal was determined to provide the best value. They have demonstrated capacity, knowledge, skills, requisite certifications and ability to carry out all aspects of the pruning work outlined in the RFP’s Scope of Services. B.C. Plant Health Care has provided tree pruning services to the City since 2001, over which time the City has found their work satisfactory. B.C. Plant Health Care also has a safe working record and practices based on their Worksafe BC records.

The proposal from Davey Tree was deficient in relation to the number of staff that had the required arborist certification and also in relation to the number of staff that had the ability to carry out the required climbing duties associated with the contract.

Funding for the Contract

Based on the expected volume of work that will be undertaken under this contract and the unit rates provided by BC Plant Health Care, the contract will have a total value of \$650,000 plus HST. This funding is available within the City’s 2011 Operating Budget.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City’s street trees and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat for song birds, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and trap other gaseous pollutants. Regular structural pruning of the trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees, in keeping with Environmental Sustainability EC3: Sustainable Infrastructure Maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 for the pruning of street trees and park trees to B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. in the amount of \$650,000.00 plus HST.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture