

NO: **R228**

COUNCIL DATE: **December 12, 2011**

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 2, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation  
and Culture**

FILE: **0350-01**

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

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council approve the extension through 2012 of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. to an upset limit of \$640,000 plus HST for the pruning of street trees and park trees.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval for the extension of a contract for the pruning of street trees and park trees in 2012.

## BACKGROUND

There are approximately 75,000 street trees and 16,000 parks trees that require a range of maintenance activities, including structural pruning, on a regular basis. Approximately 20,000 trees need to be pruned each year in accordance with good arboricultural management practices. Approximately 20% of the annual pruning work is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a qualified external tree service company.

In December 2010, through Corporate Report No. R260:2010, (attached as Appendix 1) Council approved the award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 for the pruning of street trees and park trees in 2011 to B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. in the amount of \$650,000 plus HST. The term of the contract was for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. The contract with BC Plant Health Care included an option in favour of the City to extend the term of the contract for additional years subject to satisfactory terms being negotiated.

## DISCUSSION

### Performance Under the 2011 Contract

The work carried out by B.C. Plant Health Care during 2011 was fully satisfactory both in terms of quality and quantity. This Surrey-based company has seventeen ISA Certified Arborists available for the City's work, thirteen of which are also Certified Tree Workers. The company has a very good safety record, which is important given that all the trees that are subject to pruning under the contract are located in public spaces.

### Financial Proposal for 2012

B.C. Plant Health Care has submitted a quote of 2012 rates to the City for consideration in relation to extending the subject contract to 2012. The proposed 2012 rates remain unchanged from the 2011 rates except in one category of work where the rate is reduced from the rate that was charged in 2011. Staff is satisfied that the rates for 2012 as quoted by BC Plant Health Care represent good value to the City for the subject work. The 2012 rates will result in a \$10,000 saving to the City in relation to the cost in 2011 to do the same quantity of work (i.e., \$640,000 in 2012 in comparison to \$650,000 in 2011).

## SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City's street trees and park trees represent a significant green infrastructure investment. Well-managed trees beautify the City, provide habitat, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular structural pruning of the trees helps to reduce tree failure and increase the service life of the trees. This is consistent with the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the extension through 2012 of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. to an upset limit of \$640,000 plus HST for the pruning of street trees and park trees.

Laurie Cavan,  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

CR R260 – Award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 – Tree Pruning



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R260

COUNCIL DATE: December 13, 2010

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**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

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**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