

NO: R253

COUNCIL DATE: December 10, 2012

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 3, 2012**

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

FILE: **0350-01**

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the pruning of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, including applicable taxes.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to extend an existing contract through 2013 related to the pruning of street trees and park trees.

BACKGROUND

The City has approximately 80,000 street trees and 18,000 parks trees in its inventory that require a range of maintenance activities on a regular basis, including but not limited to, pruning. Approximately 20,000 trees need to be pruned each year in accordance with good arboriculture practice. In addition, some unscheduled structural pruning is also carried out for trees growing on City road allowances that have been planted by residents. Approximately 20% of the annual pruning work is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by an 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 included an option in favour of the City to extend its term. In December 2011, after considering Corporate Report No. R228:2011, (copy attached as Appendix 2) Council approved the extension of the contract for the 2012 calendar year with the pricing remaining constant with the 2011 rates.

DISCUSSION

The work carried out by B.C. Plant Health Care during 2011 and 2012 has been fully satisfactory. This Surrey-based company has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake the necessary work with high quality and has a very good safety record.

Financial Evaluation for 2013

The 2013 contract rates remain the same as the rates that were applicable in 2011 and 2012. Staff is satisfied that these rates represent good value to the City for the subject work.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract in 2013 is \$620,000 including applicable taxes. This amount is available in the 2013 component of the proposed 2013 – 2017 Five-Year Financial Plan as approved by the Finance Committee. The subject contract will not be executed until Council has approved the 2013-2017 Five-Year Financial Plan.

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 pollutants. Regular structural pruning of these trees helps to reduce tree failure and increases the life of the trees. As such the subject contract will assist in achieving the objectives of the City Sustainability Charter; more particularly, the Environmental Sustainability Goal EC3: undertake the maintenance of infrastructure for sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize the extension through 2013 of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the pruning of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$620,000, including applicable taxes.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix 1: CR R260:2010 – Award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 – Tree Pruning
Appendix 2: CR R228:2011 - Award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 – Tree Pruning

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

CR R228:2011 - Award of Contract No. 1220-30-36-10 – Tree Pruning



CORPORATE REPORT

NO: **R228**

COUNCIL DATE: **December 12, 2011**

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)**

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