

NO: R198

COUNCIL DATE: **DECEMBER 1, 2014**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **November 20, 2014**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **6300-01**

SUBJECT: **Tree Risk Abatement Services Contract 1220-040-2013-069**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Approve an increase of \$180,000 in the value of Contract 1220-040-2013-069 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the provision of tree risk abatement services during the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 from \$370,000 plus taxes to \$550,000 plus taxes.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to obtain Council approval to increase the value of the City's contract for the annual provision of tree risk abatement services so that important risk management work related to the City's trees can continue until the end of the fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

On December 19, 2013, following a competitive RFQ process, Tree Risk Abatement Services contract 1220-040-2013-069 was awarded to B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the one-year period commencing January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. The contract contains a clause that allows for 3 additional one-year renewals should the City remain satisfied with the performance of the contractor.

Surrey has management responsibilities for significant tree resources. These include approximately 4,000 acres of forested parkland, almost 80,000 street trees under active management, trees growing wild on un-opened road allowances and trees on corporately-owned city properties.

The management of trees includes tree hazard abatement work, required to ensure public safety and to protect both City and private property. Much of this work occurs on a proactive basis, where trees are inspected and hazard abatement work carried out in a planned manner. The work also occurs on a reactive basis, where trees are found to be hazardous outside of the planned inspection programs. The unplanned work is often associated with storm events, but may also be

the result of automobile accidents, flooding, or land clearing on adjacent private properties that exposes City-owned forest trees to higher wind loading.

DISCUSSION

The City has carried out significant proactive hazard tree projects in 2014 at more than 15 City-owned properties including Green Timbers Urban Forest and Fleetwood Urban Forest. In addition, in February 2014, a significant snow storm led to considerable damage to trees due to the heavy snow load. In October 2014, a strong wind storm that caused damage to trees was particularly extensive because most trees in the urban forest were still in full leaf. These storms necessitated the removal of hundreds of City trees from un-opened road allowances, roadways, and City lands and resulted in much higher than anticipated expenditures against Tree Risk Abatement Services Contract 1220-040-2013-069 by a number of City Departments.

An additional \$180,000 is necessary to pay for additional urgent work required following the October storm and planned work in progress (both reactive and planned); and to provide adequate additional funding to allow for additional reactive storm response work through to December 31, 2014.

Sufficient funds are in place in the 2014 Park Operations Budget to cover the necessary contract addition.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Surrey's tree risk abatement programs support the following Sustainability Charter goals:

1. Socio-Cultural Goal - Specific Goal #5
"To create a City that is, and is perceived as being, safe and secure."
2. Environmental Goal
"To demonstrate good stewardship of the land, water, air and built environment, protecting, preserving and enhancing Surrey's natural areas and ecosystems for current and future generations while making nature accessible for all to enjoy."

CONCLUSION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council approve an increase in the value of Contract 1220-040-2013-069 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the provision of tree risk abatement services during the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 from \$370,000 plus taxes to \$550,000 plus taxes.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture