

NO: R203

COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2014

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **December 10, 2014**

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

FILE: **0350-01**

SUBJECT: **Award of Tree Pruning Contract (No. 1220-30-03-10)**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council authorize the extension through 2015 of Contract No. 1220-30-03-10 with B.C. Plant Health Care Inc. for the pruning of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$900,000, plus applicable taxes.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to extend an existing contract through 2015 related to the pruning of street trees and park trees.

BACKGROUND

The City has approximately 75,000 street trees and 20,000 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 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 external tree service companies.

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 for four one-year renewals. In December of 2011, 2012 and 2013, after considering Corporate Report Nos. R228:2011, R253:2012 and R237:2013, Council approved contract extensions for each of those years, with the pricing remaining constant with the 2011 rates. If approved, 2015 would be the last of the four one-year contract extensions.

DISCUSSION

The work carried out by B.C. Plant Health Care during 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 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.

Through the 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 contract periods, B.C. Plant Health Care has requested no rate increases and between 2011 and 2012 rates actually decreased for two crew alignments and have remained at the lower rate since. For 2015, the contractor has requested an increase of 1.5% in all rates within the contract to offset increases in supplies, materials, and wages since 2011. Staff is satisfied that these rates represent good value to the City for the subject work; further, the cumulative Consumer Price Index rates for Greater Vancouver for the same period (2011 to 2014) have increased by more than 1.9%.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract in 2015 is \$900,000 plus applicable taxes. The increase over the 2014 contract value is due to two factors: i) in 2015, a greater number of trees will be pruned (>2,000) and ii) the trees that will be pruned are older trees that are larger in size, with more time required per tree for structural pruning.

The \$900,000 is anticipated to be available in the 2015 – 2019 Five-Year Financial Plan. The subject contract will not be executed until Council has approved the 2015-2019 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 airborne pollutants. Regular structural pruning of these trees helps to reduce tree failure and increases the lifespan of the trees.

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 2015 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 \$900,000, plus 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

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