

NO: **R060**

COUNCIL DATE: **APRIL 27, 2015**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **April 10, 2015**

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

FILE: **2320-20/H**

SUBJECT: **Award of Tree Watering Contract (No. 1220-040-2015-074)**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Award Contract No. 1220-040-2015-074 to Horizon Landscape Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$657,530.00 including GST, for the watering of street trees and park trees; and
2. Set the expenditure authorization limit for Contract No. 1220-040-2015-074 at \$850,000.00 including contingency and GST.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to award a contract for the watering of street trees and park trees in 2015.

BACKGROUND

Street trees and park shade trees require supplemental watering during the first six to eight years following planting, depending on the weather during any given year. For 2015, there are approximately 24,000 trees that may need to be watered at the peak of the summer drought period. Approximately 5% of the watering is carried out by City staff with the remainder undertaken by a qualified external contractor.

DISCUSSION

A request for expression of interest and statement of qualifications was advertised on the B.C. Bid website and the City website. Two companies responded. Both companies were evaluated with respect to the requirements of the request and subsequently were invited to submit a quotation to provide tree watering services.

The proponents provided quotes on the rate to water trees in various categories. Structuring the contract on a cost per tree basis, rather than an hourly rate, ensures efficient performance by the contractor. Separate rates are required for trees located in parks, trees located on streets and for different age categories.

Based on the numbers of trees in each component of the contract, the following represents the value of the quote from each of the two pre-qualified contractors:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Horizon Landscape Contractors Inc. | \$ 657,530.00 incl. tax |
| 2. D.J. Weedbusters Ltd. | \$1,246,689.15 incl. tax |

Based on previous experience and reference checks, Horizon Landscape Contractors Inc. has the necessary expertise and capacity to deliver the services that are required under the subject contract. As such, based on their quote being the lower of the two submissions, staff is recommending that the subject contract be awarded to Horizon Landscape Contractors Inc.

Funding

The quotation from Horizon represents the watering of trees in a year of average weather. However, warm weather can drive watering costs up very significantly. For this reason, the recommendations of this report include funding in an amount equal to a 1/3 increase in watering over an average year, in the event that the spring and summer in Surrey is unusually sunny and hot. Funding for the contract is contained within the approved 2015 Parks Division 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, mitigate storm water run-off, off-set carbon emissions and filter other pollutants. Regular watering 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 award of tree watering Contract No. 1220-040-2015-074 to Horizon Landscape Contractors Inc. for the watering of street trees and park trees up to a maximum amount of \$850,000.00 including contingency and GST.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture