

The RFQ specified that the tree pruning contract would be for a one year period with four optional one year renewals in favour of the City.

Three suppliers submitted a quotation; these being:

- F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company Canada Ltd. (“Bartlett”);
- Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada Limited (“Davey Tree”); and
- BC Plant Health Care Inc.

DISCUSSION

Evaluation of Quotations:

The quotations 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, BC Plant Health Care Inc.’s quotation was determined to provide the best value. They have the demonstrated capacity, knowledge, skills, requisite certifications and ability to carry out all aspects of the pruning work outlined in the RFQ’s Scope of Services.

BC Plant Health Care Inc. has provided tree pruning services to the City since 2001, over which time the City has found their work satisfactory. BC Plant Health Care Inc. also has a safe working record and practices based on their WorkSafe BC records.

BC Plant Health Care Inc’s quotation represents the lowest aggregate cost for all components of the pruning program.

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 Inc., the contract will have a value of \$1,240,200.00 including GST. However, the demand-based pruning component of the contract varies annually. On average over the last 3 years, demand-based pruning expenditures have amounted to approximately \$100,000, with a high of \$120,000 in 2015. For this reason, the recommendations of this report include funding in an amount equal to a 10% increase over the contract period. This funding is available within the City’s draft 2016 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. The pruning work under this contract is in keeping with following Section of the Sustainability Charter:

- Environmental Sustainability EC3: Sustainable Infrastructure Maintenance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2015-100 for the pruning of street trees and park trees to BC Plant Health Care Inc. in the amount of \$1,364,150.00 including contingency and GST. The Contract contains four one year extensions at the discretion of the City subject to satisfactory performance by BC Plant Health Care Inc.

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