

# CORPORATE REPORT

NO: R008 COUNCIL DATE: January 11, 2016

## **REGULAR COUNCIL**

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: January 5, 2016

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

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

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

- 1. Extend Contract No. 1220-040-2013-069 with BC Plant Health Care Inc. through 2016 for the provision of tree risk abatement services in the amount of \$720,000.00 including GST; and
- Authorize the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture to execute the one year
  contract renewal and the authority to execute the final contract renewal option for
  services in 2017 at the sole discretion of the City to a maximum amount of \$800,000
  including GST.

#### **INTENT**

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to extend an existing contract through 2016 related to tree risk abatement services.

## **BACKGROUND**

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 risk abatement work which is 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 is 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.

On December 19, 2013, following a competitive RFQ process, Tree Risk Abatement Services Contract 1220-040-2013-069 was awarded to BC Plant Health Care Inc. for the one-year period commencing January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. On December 15, 2014, the contract was extended with BC Plant Health Care Inc. for the one-year period commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015.

#### **DISCUSSON**

The work carried out by BC Plant Health Care Inc. during 2014 and 2015 has been fully satisfactory. This company has sufficient resources and expertise to undertake the necessary work with high quality and has a very good safety record.

## Financial Evaluation for 2016

The contract rates have remained the same for 2014 and 2015. BC Plant Health Care Inc. has requested a 1.5% rate increase for 2016 to account for increased costs of equipment and wages over the last two years. City staff have carefully reviewed the proposed rates for 2016 and are satisfied that the rates represent best value for the City.

A number of City departments and sections are responsible for tree risk abatement work, mainly within the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Engineering Department. As such, this contract includes anticipated expenditures from the respective City departments, plus a modest contingency for additional storm events beyond the average and to ensure that scheduled tree risk abatement work that was planned for 2015 but postponed due to storm events is completed in 2016.

The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract in 2015 is \$720,000.00 including GST. This amount is anticipated to be available in the 2016 – 2020 Five-Year Financial Plan. The subject contract will not be executed until Council has approved the 2016-2020 Five-Year Financial Plan.

# **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

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

- Socio-Cultural Goal Specific Goal #5
   "To create a City that is, and is perceived as being, safe and secure."
- 2. Over-arching Environmental Goal (p 25)

"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:

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- 2. Authorize the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture to execute the one year contract renewal and the authority to execute the final contract renewal option for services in 2017 at the sole discretion of the City to a maximum amount of \$800,000 including GST.

Laurie Cavan General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture

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