

NO: R254

COUNCIL DATE: December 18, 2017

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **December 14, 2017**  
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **6300-01**  
SUBJECT: **Award of Tree Risk Abatement Services Contract 1220-040-2017-129**

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Approve the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2017-129 to *B.C. Plant Health Care Inc.* for the provision of tree risk abatement services up to a maximum of \$890,000 plus applicable taxes.
2. Authorize the General Manager, Park, Recreation & Culture to execute a one-year Contract and execute up to three (3) one-year extensions in favour of the City, subject to satisfactory performance by *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval for the award of a contract for tree risk abatement services in 2018.

## BACKGROUND

Surrey has management responsibilities for significant tree resources. These include approximately 1,500 hectares of forested parkland, 98,000 street and park shade trees under active management, remnant trees growing on public open and 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.

Request for Quotations (RFQ) No. 1220-040-2017-129 for Tree Risk Abatement Services was issued by the City on November 10, 2017. The RFQ required proponents to submit hourly rates for various tree removal crew alignments as well as information that would allow the City to evaluate whether the proponent had the capacity, qualifications, knowledge and skills to undertake the necessary work.

The RFQ specified that the Tree Risk Abatement contract would be for a one year period with three optional one year renewals in favour of the City.

## **DISCUSSION**

One supplier submitted a quotation:

1. *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*

Since only one supplier submitted a quotation, staff contacted several other reputable tree service companies in the region to determine why they chose not to provide a quotation for this service. The following information was provided to City staff:

- a. *Davey Tree Experts* opted not to submit a quotation due to a lack of qualified staff who meet the minimum standards stated in this contract.
- b. *Bartlett Tree Experts* missed the postings on both the City and BC Bid websites.
- c. *Riteway Tree Service* is at maximum capacity and is not currently taking on additional work.

### **Minimum Standards for Qualified Tree Risk Abatement:**

The following qualifications are contained with the City's RFQ and are industry standards for tree abatement work in the urban environment:

- I.S.A. Arborist
- I.S.A. Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist
- Faller Certification - BC Forest Safety Council
- I.S.A. Certified Utility Arborist

### **Evaluation of Quotation:**

The quotation was 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.); and
- Demonstrated experience to undertake the work of the contract.

*BC Plant Health Care Inc.*'s quotation meets the above criteria. The company has the demonstrated capacity, knowledge, skills, requisite qualifications and certifications, and ability to carry out all aspects of the tree risk abatement work outlined in the RFQ's Scope of Services. In addition, in the absence of quotations from other suppliers, the quotation was evaluated to compare *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*'s rates and the crew alignments required to complete the necessary work against previous RFQ processes for the same services and City crew alignments as follows:

- *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*'s proposed rates for the 2018 contract have increased substantially over the 2017 rates. However, during previous RFQ process for the same services, the second lowest bidders' rates were even higher than those proposed for 2018. As such, staff are confident that *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*'s 2018 rates represent good value to the City.
- The City does not currently have the staff numbers and qualifications nor the equipment required to perform the necessary volume of work required through this contract.

*BC Plant Health Care Inc.* has provided tree risk abatement services to the City since 2014, during which time the City has found their work to be satisfactory. *BC Plant Health Care Inc.* also has safe working records and practices based on their WorkSafe BC records.

## FUNDING

A number of City sections are responsible for tree risk abatement work, mainly within the Parks, Recreation & 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 is completed in 2018. The total anticipated cost of the work under the contract in 2018 is \$890,000 plus applicable taxes.

## 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

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve the award of Contract No. 1220-040-2017-129 for the tree risk abatement to *BC Plant Health Care Inc.* in the amount of \$890,000.00 plus applicable taxes. The Contract contains three (3) one-year extensions at the discretion of the City subject to satisfactory performance by *BC Plant Health Care Inc.*

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager,  
Parks, Recreation & Culture

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