



REPORT FIR-2014-006

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Steve Goode, Fire Chief
DATE: September 25, 2014
SUBJECT: Radio Communication Interfacing

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Report FIR-2014-006 regarding Radio Communication Interfacing be received; and

That Council authorize the single source retainer of MRC Systems Inc. and Bell Mobility for the acquisition and installation of radio communications interface equipment.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

Puslinch Fire and Rescue Service is seeking Council authority to proceed with the single sourcing for the purchase and installation of the radio communications interface system from MRC Systems Inc. and Bell Mobility. The radio communication interface is a component to the current radio system that would allow the fire department to communicate with mutual aid partners.

MRC Systems Inc. is the current service provider for the public safety radio communications systems utilized by Puslinch Fire and Rescue Service and Roads Department. The purchase would be for a Multi Band – Multi Radio Cross Patch 6 Radio Controller.

Bell Mobility is the sole dealer for the Fleetnet Radio System. The installation of the Fleetnet system is subcontracted to MRC Systems Inc.

Background

The Fire and Rescue Committee (“Committee”) at its meeting held on September 17, 2014 passed a recommendation that Report FIR-2014-06 be received and recommended to Council for approval.

During the 2014 budget process Council approved a radio communications interface system to improve communications between the Township fire department and mutual aid partners. There are two components to this seamless radio communications interface; Fleetnet Radio Interface and Multi Band – Multi Radio Cross Patch Controller. The Fleetnet Radio Interface system provides a communication link to Guelph Fire Department and the Multi Band system provides a communication link with Milton, Cambridge and Hamilton fire departments.

Bell Mobility – Radio Division delivered a presentation to the Wellington County Fire Chiefs Association in 2009 on the proposed Fleetnet Interoperability within Wellington County. The Wellington County Fire Chiefs with the exception of Puslinch purchased the Bell Mobility Fleetnet interoperability system and went live with the system in 2010. The Bell Fleetnet interoperability system was purchased through Bell Mobility and MRC Systems Inc installed and continues to maintain the system.

In 2011 the Township acquired a new digital radio system for the fire and roads department. The digital radio system was purchased through the Wellington County RFP that was awarded to MRC Systems Inc.

MRC Systems Inc. is the current manager and service provider of the Wellington County public safety radio communications systems utilized by the Township. Bell Mobility is the sole dealer of the Fleetnet system and subcontracts the installation of the Fleetnet system with MRC Systems Inc.

Through the Request for Quote process the Vendor (MRC Systems Inc. and Bell Mobility) was required to attend the fire department dispatch room and submit a radio communication interoperability system quote.

Procurement

The Township Procurement By-law does not specifically contain provisions related to the sole sourcing or single sourcing. The ability to sole source or single source may be utilized in cases where Council has granted specific approval for the use of non-competitive procurement processes where in Council's opinion it would be advantageous and in the best interest of Puslinch.

In this case, it is recommended that radio communication interface be procured through MRC Systems Inc. and Bell Mobility to commence a base of radio communication interoperability equipment and installation that meet the County of Wellington fire department public safety radio communication system standards.

Financial Implications

The 2014 Capital Budget includes \$24,800 for the purchase and installation of the radio communications interface. The 2014 Capital Budget shows this project as being funded from taxation levy and the fire equipment replacement working reserve. As per the 2014 Development Charges Background Study dated June 5, 2014 (including the Addendum dated July 10, 2014), the Radio Communication Interfacing has a growth component of 40%. Therefore, based on more recent available information, it is recommended that the project be funded as \$10,082 through Fire Development Charges and \$15,123 through taxation levy.

There are sufficient funds to proceed with the work based on the breakdown of costs as detailed below:

Multi Band – Multi Radio Cross Patch 6 Radio Controller \$11,339

Fleetnet System including Fleetnet Radio, Moto-TURBO Radio and Interoperability Interface \$13,372.

Non-refundable portion of HST \$494.

The cost for the purchase and implementation of the radio communications interface has been quoted at approximately \$25,205 which includes the non-refundable portion of HST.

Annual Recurring Network Access cost of \$1,102 (\$92.00/mth) which includes the non-refundable portion of HST that would be incurred as a result of operating this equipment.

Applicable Legislation and Requirements

Township Purchasing and Procurement of Good and Services By-law 60/08