

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



9.3

Date: March 19, 2021

To: Chair and Members of General Committee

From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of
Community Services

Originator's files:

Meeting date:
April 14, 2021

Subject

Single Source Contract Award for the Supply and Delivery of Fire Suppression Bunker Gear for Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services (MFES)

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report entitled "Single Source Contract Award for the Supply and Delivery of Fire Suppression Bunker Gear for Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services" dated March 19, 2021 from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the Purchasing Agent be authorized to execute a contract with Starfield Lion for a two year period ending March 31, 2023, in the estimated amount of \$666,000.00.

Executive Summary

- MFES employs over 650 fire suppression personnel. Each firefighter is issued two sets of bunker gear.
- An interim extension to PPE Solutions, who supplies Starfield Lion products, was completed to extend the contract for six months until June 30, 2020. A competitive procurement process was not feasible in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing wear testing.
- PPE Solutions Inc. was contacted for further extension, but they were closing their business and cannot accept a further extension to the contract. Starfield Lion (manufacturer) has agreed to supply the City directly. The City conducted a single source contract with Starfield Lion from June 30, 2020, until March 31, 2021.
- A competitive procurement process is still not feasible at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing wear testing.
- This report requests approval to enter into a contract with Starfield Lion on a single source basis to ensure a consistent supply for a two (2) year contract ending March 2023, when a competitive process can be completed.

Background

MFES employs over 650 fire suppression personnel. Each firefighter is issued two sets of bunker gear. The lifecycle of bunker gear is 10 years, as prescribed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). With the staggering of new hires/retirees, MFES annual purchases vary from year to year.

A competitive procurement process in 2014 resulted in an award to PPE Solutions Inc., a distributor of products manufactured by Starfield Lion. The contract was for a five-year term with the option to extend for five years. Due to changes to specifications and price increases, a competitive procurement process was preferred for the longer term. An interim extension was completed to extend the contract for six months until June 30, 2020. A competitive procurement process was not feasible in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing wear testing.

PPE Solutions Inc. was contacted for further extension, but they were closing their business and cannot accept a further extension to the contract. Starfield Lion (manufacturer) has agreed to supply the City directly. The City conducted a single source contract with Starfield Lion from June 30, 2020, until March 31, 2021.

This report requests approval to enter into a contract with Starfield Lion on a single source basis to ensure a consistent supply for two years. The bunker gear, as manufactured by Starfield Lion, is exclusive to them and not available from any other source. A competitive procurement process is not feasible at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing wear testing.

Comments

Schedule A, Section 1 of the Purchasing By-law #374-2006 provides for single sourcing wherein it states: (a) the Goods and/or Services are only available from one supplier by reason of (iii) the existence of exclusive rights such as patent, copyright or license.

Materiel Management has reviewed this report and supports the recommendation from a procurement perspective.

Financial Impact

The annual estimated cost is \$282,618 plus a \$50,000 contingency to be absorbed within existing MFES operating budget.

Conclusion

Given the restrictions related to the COVID 19 pandemic, it is not possible to conduct appropriate testing and evaluation of new bunker gear. Therefore, a competitive procurement process is not recommended at this time. Starfield Lion, the manufacturer of the currently used bunker gear, is recommended for contract award on a single source basis to ensure a consistent supply of the currently used products until appropriate testing and evaluation can be completed.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

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