

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



<p>Date: September 27, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer</p>	<p>Meeting date: October 18, 2023</p>

Subject

Single Source Contract Award for Structural Fire Fighting Bunker Gear (PRC004248, PPE Solutions)

Recommendation

That the Chief Procurement Officer or Designate be authorized to award and execute a contract with PPE Solutions for the replacement of firefighter bunker gear for a one-year period, in the amount of \$396,125.00 exclusive of taxes as outlined in the corporate report entitled "Single Source Contract Award for the Structural Fire Fighting Bunker Gear (PRC004248, PPE Solutions)" dated September 27, 2023 from the City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer.

Executive Summary

- The current contract for the purchase of bunker gear is expiring Dec 31, 2023, with no further extensions available
- Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services (MFES) is seeking approval to proceed with the purchase of replacement firefighter bunker gear from PPE Solutions for a one year term to address the immediate gear replacement needs
- All National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant bunker gear manufactured today contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a category of chemicals linked to cancer and other diseases
- A new NFPA standard is anticipated to be released in mid 2024 that may address PFAS
- In the interim, MFES requires the ability to continue to purchase new and replacement bunker gear from the existing supplier until a new NFPA standard is established
- The ability to continue purchasing from the existing supplier will avoid MFES entering into a long term contract with a vendor and/or product that will be non-compliant with the release of the new NFPA standard
- MFES will require the purchase of 125 sets of bunker gear in 2024 at a cost of \$396,125
- There are no financial impacts resulting from the recommendations in this report

Background

Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services (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).

Firefighter bunker gear is an essential component of ensuring the life safety of MFES employees while they carry out their duties as first responders. MFES maintains a complement of approximately 1400 sets of firefighter bunker gear. NFPA establishes standards and provides recommendations on the process and materials used in the manufacturing of personal protective ensembles including firefighter bunker gear. NFPA standards go through periodic reviews where updates and changes are made.

NFPA 1970 is the current standard applied to bunker gear, which will see significant changes that may include addressing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also commonly known as 'forever chemicals'. PFAS are a category of chemicals linked to cancer and other diseases. It has been established that all NFPA compliant bunker gear manufactured today contains PFAS. A new standard is anticipated to be released in the 1st half of 2024.

In 2024, MFES will have 125 sets of bunker gear that will need to be purchased. MFES is recommending that the gear be replaced with the current make and model currently in use by the division, Globe Flame Fighter provided by PPE Solutions.

This contract to PPE Solutions is considered a single source procurement as defined in the Procurement By-Law #0013-2022 which states under Schedule A (1) (h): for additional Goods and/or Services from the original Supplier that were not included in the original Procurement, if the change of Supplier for such additional Goods and/or Services cannot be made for (ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the City.

Comments

MFES' current contract for the purchase of bunker gear is expiring Dec 31, 2023. To maintain the required bunker gear levels, MFES requires the ability to continue to purchase new and replacement bunker gear from the existing supplier until a new NFPA standard is established. It would not be prudent to go to market with a new NFPA standard imminent, as any product purchased now may be non-compliant to the new standard. Upon the release of the new NFPA standard, MFES will begin a competitive bid process to establish a 10-year contract with a supplier to supply and deliver bunker gear that meets or exceeds the new standard.

MFES is seeking approval to proceed with the purchase of replacement firefighter bunker gear from PPE Solutions, for a one-year term to address the immediate gear replacement needs of the Division.

In accordance with Procurement By-law 0013-2022, Schedule B further requires Council authority to award single source contracts having a value of more than \$100,000.

Financial Impact

There are no additional financial impacts resulting from the recommendations in this report. Bunker gear requirements, both replacement and new, have been anticipated and sufficiently budgeted. The estimated cost of \$396,125.00 is available in PN's 21253 and 22253 Personal Protective Equipment Replacement, which has sufficient funding.

Conclusion

The safety and well-being of our employees are a top priority, and replacing their bunker gear promptly is crucial to their effectiveness in safeguarding our community. The ability to safely respond to emergency events in the City requires the availability of PPE that includes bunker gear to support emergency response efforts.

MFES requires the ability to continue to purchase new and replacement bunker gear in the interim from the existing supplier until a new NFPA standard is established, this will avoid MFES entering into a long term contract with a vendor and/or product that will be non-compliant with the release of a new standard.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Statement of Work



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer

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