

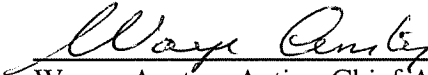
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Halifax Regional Council
April 4, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: March 23, 2006

SUBJECT: Award Tender #06-018, Tree Hazard Mitigation - Lake Charles
Parkland

ORIGIN

The Halifax Regional Municipality publicly advertised tenders to conduct a Tree Hazard Mitigation Program at the Lake Charles Parkland.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Tender #06-018, Tree Hazard Mitigation - Lake Charles Parkland, be awarded to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, R. MacLean Forestry Ltd. for a total cost of \$181,993.10 including net HST with funding authorized as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2003, Halifax Regional Municipality and the surrounding area was hit by Hurricane Juan causing devastation throughout the municipality. This included extensive damage in the form of tree breakage, windthrows and uprooted trees and damage to some of the build infrastructure within a number of HRM Parks and Greenbelts.

DISCUSSION

Tenders were issued and closed on February 8, 2006 to conduct Hazard Tree Mitigation for Lake Charles Parkland that reflects the sensitivity of the forest environment and the park's various cultural, historical and natural assets. The scope of work was based on a recommended treatment regime prepared by an independent Forestry Consulting Firm following a comprehensive assessment of Lake Charles Parkland to identify, map and categorize the damage caused by Hurricane Juan.

A mandatory site meeting was held in the park to provide proponents with a first hand opportunity to inspect the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Juan.

The scope of the work includes the following deliverables:

1. To develop and execute a Tree Hazard Mitigation Program that in general removes the broken, leaning, up rooted, downed and damaged trees within Lake Charles Parkland in order to eliminate the various hazards caused by Hurricane Juan. The operation will be under direction of an HRM Project Supervisor with technical support and assistance from a Registered Professional Forester. The tree remediation work will be conducted in accordance with the technical guidelines, details, constraints, stipulations and details contained in the tender as well as relevant industry practices.
2. To execute a work plan that includes a multi-faceted approach (i.e. various mechanical and manual methods) that has the flexibility to meet the challenge of access to the damaged trees and to respond to such factors as weather, changes in constraints, good industry practices, culturally and historically significant sites and CFIA requirements.
3. To execute an environmentally responsible strategy that deals with the excess bio-mass/wood fibre product that cannot remain within the forest environment. Note- good science and proper forest rehabilitation practices including fuel load/fire risk mitigation will determine the amount and state of biomass to be left within the park.
4. To provide daily progress reports and other documentation as required to meet disaster relief criteria.

The following bids were received, reviewed and evaluated:

Firm	Total Bid (including Net HST)
R. MacLean Forestry Ltd.	\$ 181,993.10
Asplundh Tree Services Inc.	\$ 195,273.95
Verboom Grinders Ltd	\$ 257,021.06

The lowest bidder meeting specifications is R. MacLean Forestry Ltd.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Budget Summary	Operating Account No. W186 Sportsfields West	
	Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$214,181.00
	Less: Tender 06-018	<u>\$181,993.10</u>
	Uncommitted Budget	\$ 32,187.90

The total cost of hazard tree mitigation of Lake Charles Parkland is \$ 175, 959.45 plus net HST for a total cost of \$ 181,993.10.

The work is directly associated with the clean-up of Hurricane Juan and will be isolated to a Hurricane Juan work order and collected together with other Juan related costs. The cost of the Hurricane clean-up and recovery costs will be funded through a combination of insurance claims, HRM funds and funding from the Federal Disaster Financial Relief Program. Based on our present information the costs of hazard tree mitigation in a public park is eligible under Disaster Financial Relief program as it falls under the criteria of “clean up to mitigate public safety matters and restore functionality and repairs of a restorative nature to return an HRM asset to a pre-disaster condition.” Staff are of the opinion that the hazard tree mitigation work is necessary for public safety and that HRM will be successful in the pursuit of disaster relief funding for this work. However, the total exact amount of federal funding cannot be determined until after the work is complete and the application is filed and adjudicated. Any portion not covered under disaster relief funding would be paid for out of operational account W186 Sportsfields West.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved this contract may negatively impact the operating budget, however, as previously reported, every effort is and will be

made by staff to manage the total Hurricane Juan impact with no deficit.

ALTERNATIVES

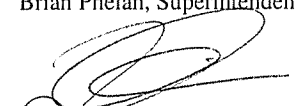
Council could choose not to award this contract. This is not the recommended approach as the risk of fires will be extreme come spring and unstable trees would not be treated within the established safety buffer zone along the walkways of the park if the tree hazard mitigation program is not completed. Cold winter weather is the best opportunity to carry out this work with minimal impact on the restoration of the park. However cold weather is not crucial to the completion of the work.

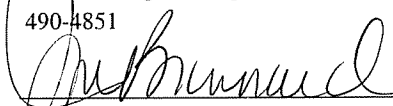
ATTACHMENTS

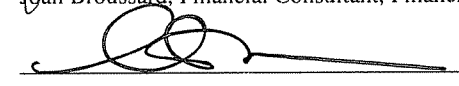
None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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