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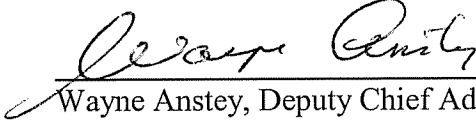
Halifax Regional Council
December 13, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 5, 2005

SUBJECT: **RPF # 05-145 Award, Vehicle Tracking & Communications:
Non-Emergency Voice Radio Component**

ORIGIN

This report originates from a Council decision on July 9, 2002 to move to an integrated radio system capable of meeting the needs of all radio system users within HRM and it represents the final phase of a three-phase project. This has been approved in Capital Budget Account CHA00160.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council authorize the award of the non-emergency voice radio component of Request for Proposal #05-145 Vehicle Tracking and Communications to the highest ranking proponent, Aliant, for a total cost of \$543,999 including net HST from capital account number CHA00160, Vehicle Tracking & Communications, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

The requirement for a new regional radio and paging system came about as a result of amalgamation and the phasing out of the Provincial wide VHF radio system. With amalgamation came the need to have regional wide coverage as well as interagency communications with internal (EMO, Fire, HRP, Works) and external users (EHS, RCMP). Following amalgamation the former City of Halifax radio system was expanded in an attempt to fill the municipality's needs. Even with the expansion, the system was unable to provide for adequate coverage for core area radio users and Rural user had to rely on various local radio and paging systems which could not interface with other HRM or Provincial radio users.

A committee representing HRM radio users with assistance of an independent consultant, reviewed alternatives including expansion of our current system, building a new system or contracting services on an existing system. The committee entered into discussions with Aliant because:

1. Aliant's TMR system was already in operation which reduced the time to go live and was already being tested by Halifax Regional Police
2. The cost of leasing air time on the Aliant system was comparable to ownership cost without the added costs of system maintenance.
3. The Aliant system provided HRM-wide coverage.
4. The Aliant system provided Province-wide coverage and allowed HRM to provide its dispatching services to other municipalities.

It was further recommended that the implementation of the new system be phased in over three years with the following services migrating to the new system as outlined:

Years 1 & 2	Rural and Core Fire Services (Radios and Paging system) Approved July 9, 2002
Year 3	HRP upgrade from analog to digital, Shared Services, EMO, Recreation, Public Works, Transit, Supervisors, RPAM, and EMS

In 2004/05, through the Budget and Business Planning process, staff identified the requirement for replacement of the aging Transit GoTime system. They also identified a requirement for an investment in Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) for the Snow and Ice Control program, streets and roads operations, and parks and enforcement services.

Since the original TMR decision in 2002, there have been significant advancements in technology and staff made the decision to go back to the marketplace to determine:

1. If TMR was still the most cost effective option for non-emergency radio requirements;
2. If economies of scale could be achieved by purchasing an integrated GoTime AVL system rather than two separate solutions for Transit and Public Works; and
3. If a combined AVL/Radio solution was available to meet HRM's Requirements.

In April 2005, HRM staff released an Expression of Interest to confirm the availability of viable options for non-emergency voice radio solutions. Based on these results, two vendors were identified as proposing potentially viable options. These two vendors were then invited to respond to a Request for Proposal that closed on October 21, 2005.

DISCUSSION

Staff added the voice radio solution project to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Vehicle Tracking & Communications project. This decision was based on: 1) the recent availability of an alternative commercial radio solution offered by Telus, 2) the potential for both Aliant and Telus to offer an integrated voice radio, Automatic Vehicle Location, and Go-Time solution, and 3) both Telus and Aliant being short listed for all project components.

The Vehicle Tracking & Communications RFP was released on August 8, 2005 and closed on October 21, 2005. Aliant's submission for the non-emergency voice radio component of the RFP ranked highest. Aliant's solution is based on the same Trunked Mobile Radio (TMR) system used by HRM integrated policing Services and Fire and Emergency Services. Virtually all HRM voice radio users will now have access to wide-area integrated communications.

The integrated radio solution proposed by Aliant will provide the following benefits:

- Effective interoperability of Works, Parks and Transit Departments with Police and Fire
- HRM-wide coverage to allow for changing service boundaries (such as road exchanges, etc.)
- Efficient service management that is unrestricted by current radio coverage limitations
- Discontinued reliance on the 14 year former Halifax radio system that is no longer formally supported by the manufacturer
- Discontinued reliance on the former Sackville and Dartmouth radio systems
- A high grade of service to users
- Allow better coordination between supervisors and crew in different regions. Example of this would be major snow removals from downtown Halifax using east and central trucks
- Efficiency between snow plow operators when they need to work in tandem on multi-lane roads
- Improved communications during severe weather events and power failures when cell phone system becomes overloaded.
- Expedite the exchange of information during snow events, e.g. for detours
- Improved safety for employees
- Consolidation of non-emergency dispatch services

The total cost for 190 mobiles, 6 bases and 8 dispatch consolettes including installation shall not exceed \$543,999 including net HST. This total may be reduced once the final inventory of decommissioned Police units is ascertained and Works and Transit dispatch requirements are finalized. Capital funds will be taken from the Vehicle Tracking & Communications account CHA00160-6912 that combines residual funds of the 3-year TMR project with the Vehicle Tracking & Communications project.

The following table summarizes the scores in the evaluation table found in the attached appendix. Evaluations were completed by representatives of the primary user groups, including RPAM and Public Works.

Vendor	Points	Cost (including net HST)
Aliant	88	\$543,999
Telus	66	\$677,570

As identified in the attached evaluation, the proposal from Aliant represents the best overall value to HRM in terms of coverage, cost and equipment selections, and provides for easy expansion as operational boundaries change.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Funding is available in the Approved 2004/05 Capital Budget from Capital account No. CHA00160, Vehicle Tracking and Communication. The availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary:

Capital Account No. CHA00160 Vehicle Tracking and Communication

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$2,348,588
Less: Radio Purchase	<u>\$ 543,999</u>
Uncommitted Budget	\$1,804,589

The remaining funds from this account are required to implement the Go-Time and Automatic Vehicle Location portion of the Vehicle Tracking and Communications initiative.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

Continue to use the existing 3 disparate radio systems that collectively provide coverage in the Halifax, Dartmouth and Sackville areas. These systems are in excess of 14 years old and will require increasing maintenance and on-going operating costs. This is not the recommended solution.

ATTACHMENTS

Voice Radio System Evaluation

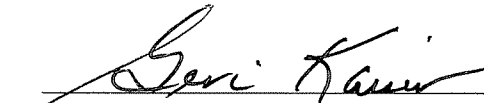
Award of RFP # 05-145
Council Report

December 13, 2005

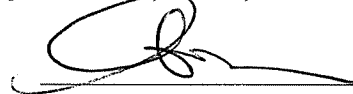
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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RFP # 05-145**VOICE RADIO SYSTEM EVALUATION**

COMMERCIAL VOICE SERVICES ARE EVALUATED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

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CATEGORY	WEIGHT	ALIAANT	TELUS
COVERAGE	30	25.3	16.0
INTEROPERABILITY	10	9.7	6
PERFORMANCE	10	9.3	8
USER EQUIPMENT SELECTIONS	10	8	6.3
DISPATCH CONSOLE DESIGN/FUNCTIONALITY	10	7	3
SUPPORT	10	9	6.7
COST	20	19.7	20
	100	88.0	66.0