
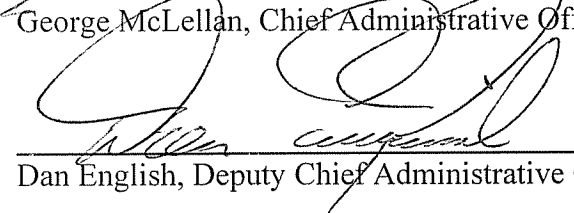


Halifax Regional Council
April 23, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer


Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: April 4, 2002

SUBJECT: Award - Tender 01-167 Grand Parade Electrical Upgrades

ORIGIN

The 2002/03 capital budget identified \$170,000 in account CB200378 for upgrades to the electrical service at the Grand Parade.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) Council approve an increase to Capital Account CB200378, Grand Parade - Electrical Distribution Upgrade, in the amount of \$12,845 with funding to be provided by a transfer from the Heritage Reserve Account Q312.
- b) Council award the tender to the low bid from Gardner Electric Ltd. for \$171,800 (\$182,845.02 including net taxes). Funding available in account CB200378 and Q312.

BACKGROUND

The increasing popularity of the Grand Parade as a special events venue for HRM has become evident over the last few years. As the number and complexity of these events has increased the capacity of the existing electrical service has been stretched beyond its limits. Currently many events, such as the New Year's festivities, summer concerts, etc. have power requirements beyond the existing capacity. To meet these shortfalls a number of strategies have evolved. On-site generators are used and temporary cables are run to City Hall where additional capacity is temporarily created by turning off large power consumption items such as air conditioning. As the trend to higher power requirements for special events continues, these strategies will become less effective and the potential of the Grand Parade as a venue site will become limited.

This initiative is also responsive to three of the primary goals of the Capital District Business Plan as laid out for 2002/03. In particular it:

- Recognizes the Capital District as a unique economic and geographic place
- Enhances the heritage, cultural, natural, and economic benefits provided to HRM by the Capital District
- Provides leadership in promoting the Capital District's cultural and economic asset/opportunities

In order to meet these capacity shortfalls, and provide increased flexibility for sites throughout the Grand Parade, it is necessary to increase the size of transformers below the Grand Parade as well as improve the distribution of power throughout the site. The improved distribution will allow for more flexibility in designing settings for future special events in the Grand Parade. In conjunction with this redistribution of power for events this project includes the distribution of power to the base of trees in the Grand Parade to facilitate a future project of installation of lights and to allow for architectural lighting of City Hall and the Cenotaph. These lighting upgrades will be addressed in a future report to Council.

In addition to the capacity upgrades there will also be an upgrade of the panel at the flagpole as it is currently not weather tight; however, the significant driving factor for this project is the requirement for additional electrical capacity.

DISCUSSION

The following bids were received:

Company	Lump Sum Price (before taxes)	Total Cost (incl.net taxes)
Gardner Electric	\$171,800	\$182,845.02
G.J. Cahill & Co. Ltd.	\$174,917	\$186,162.41
Northumberland Electric Inc.	\$177,000	\$188,379.33
Black and McDonald Ltd.	\$189,630	\$201,821.31

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

It was always staff's intention to fund this project from a combination of debt (\$170K) and other sources for an estimated project cost of \$200K. During the capital budget process, it was learned that the other sources were not available, and an oversight occurred so that the project was not reflected at the gross requirement of \$200K.

Funds for this award are available in account CB200378 Gross Budget \$170,000 uncommitted \$170,000. The additional requested funds of \$12,845 are available in the Heritage Reserve Account Q312. This has been verified by staff of Finance.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved operating, capital and reserve policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of capital and operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is to leave the electrical service at the Grand Parade in its present condition. This is **not** the recommended alternative.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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.

Report Prepared by: Phillip Townsend, Manager Capital Projects, Real Property Services, 490-7166

Report Approved by: Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property Services 490-4851

Lew Rogers, Director, Tourism /Culture/ Heritage 490-5978