

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY &amp; PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MARCH 24, 2014.</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FIRE TRAINING TOWER – LIVE FIRE TRAINING PROPS RFP No. 13-33 PROJECT No. PP1091</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Fire Chief and with the concurrence of the Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children and Fire Services:

- (a) The price submitted by Draeger Safety Canada Ltd., 1259 Gardiners Road, Unit #2, Kingston, Ontario K7P 3J6, of \$557,774.00 (HST excluded) for the Fire Training Tower Live Fire Training Props, **BE ACCEPTED**; it being pointed out that the proposal submitted by Draeger Safety Canada Ltd. was deemed to provide the best technical and financial value to the Corporation, meets the City’s requirements in all areas and acceptance is in compliance with Section 12 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy;
- (b) The financing for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached hereto as Appendix “A”;
- (c) The Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts which are necessary in connection with this project; and
- (d) The approval given herein **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a contract with the contractor for the work through the issuance of a purchase order.

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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**PURPOSE**

This report is submitted to seek Council approval to enter into a formal contract with Draeger Safety Canada Ltd. for the supply and installation of Fire Training Tower Live Fire Props, including associated systems and equipment, at the London Fire Department (LFD) Training facility located at 746 Wellington Road.

**CONTEXT**

The provision of ongoing live fire training for Fire Department personnel is crucial to ensure firefighter operational preparedness to deal with fire related emergency situations. Such training is critical not only to ensure firefighters possess and maintain mission critical firefighting skills and techniques but also provides them opportunities to develop and practice new skills and techniques. The goal of such training is to enhance firefighter safety through education and practice, as well as enable the Department it to carry out its mission: preserve lives, property and the environment.

**DISCUSSION**

In considering the status of current fire tower in its life cycle, as well as the challenges associated with operating the same using traditional practices, the LFD included in its 10 year capital plan a proposal to relocate the Training Division and related activities to a new site. As a result of the City’s financial challenges, as well as a potential need for additional funding to relocate the training complex, the LFD with Facilities Design & Construction (Facilities) assistance explored the possibility of reconditioning the existing fire tower and retrofitting the structure to operate using propane versus burning traditional materials.

In exploring its options for cost effective solutions, the LFD/Facilities Team engaged an engineering firm to assess the structural integrity of the fire tower, as well as determine if and how the life of the structure could be extended 10 or more years. Through that analysis

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the firm concluded the life of the existing tower could be extended based on the following recommendations: (a) that some immediate structural repairs be undertaken; (b) that live burns be limited to certain rooms that would be protected through the installation of upgraded fire resistive materials; and (c) that the LFD no longer burn A Class materials (wood, hay, etc.) and instead retrofit the burn rooms to use propane fuelled fire simulators. The Team concluded that the solution proposed through the recommendations met the LFD's needs, addressed all of the issues identified in the 2013 Business Case, as well as provided best overall value to the Corporation.

The Draeger Safety Canada Ltd. proposal provides the LFD with a great deal of flexibility. First, the proposed system provides for live indoor fire scenarios through propane fuelled kitchen and bedroom fire simulators. To vary the experience of each training exercise, a master control allows instructors to vary flame size, etc.; however, equally important the system permits strict control of room temperatures, as well as an emergency shutoff, thereby improving the safety of trainees in the event an emergency occurs during a training activity. Furthermore, another key advantage to the system is that by burning a clean fuel, the release of contaminants from smoke and water run-off are significantly reduced, which in turn eliminates the unnecessary exposure of firefighters to contaminants from Class A materials burned in current fire simulations, as well as eliminates the associated byproducts of combustion going into the air or into the ground.

Further to the indoor simulators, the proposal also includes a master portable propane fueled outdoor training simulator that includes several attachments, the latter which maximizes the firefighter training experience, all in a controlled environment.

Request for Proposal No. 13-13 for the supply and installation of Fire Training Tower Live Fire Training Props was issued November 20, 2013. Three responses were received and evaluated by Facilities, Fire Services and Purchasing & Supply staff against pre-established criteria including company profile & experience, product capability and suitability and pricing and other related costs.

The evaluation team deemed that the proposal submitted by Draeger Safety Canada Ltd. provided the best technical and financial value to the Corporation, meets the City's requirements in all areas and acceptance is in accordance with Section 12 of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy.

The work is scheduled to commence in August 2014 with an anticipated completion date of November 2014.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The LFD estimates that it will incur an additional annual operating expense of \$15,000 related to supply of propane in 2015 and subsequent years, as well as \$5,000 expenses related to maintenance of the Live Fire Training Props, the latter which are anticipated to commence in 2017. The LFD will absorb the aforementioned operating expenses in its operating budget.

To ensure the Corporation achieves the longevity sought through this conversion, the engineering consultant recommended an annualized ongoing structural maintenance investment of \$15,000 through to the end of the fire tower's life which Facilities will absorb into their Life Cycle Renewal Program.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report was prepared with input from Tim Wellhauser and Jeff Wilson, Facilities Design & Construction.

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<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>CONCURRED BY:</b>
<b>DAVID LAZENBY, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF</b>	<b>KEN OWEN DIVISION MANAGER, FACILITIES</b>
<b>CONCURRED BY:</b>	<b>CONCURRED BY:</b>
<b>MIKE TURNER DEPUTY CITY TREASURER</b>	<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>
<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF</b>	

Attach: Appendix "A" – Sources of Financing  
 cc: Tim Wellhauser, Manager, Facilities Design & Construction