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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON JUNE 16, 2014
FROM:	JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF, LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT:	MICHELIN TIRES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

That, on the recommendation of the Fire Chief and with the concurrence of the Managing Director of Neighbourhood, Children and Fire services that the following actions **BE TAKEN**;

- a) Michelin brand tires be established as the only acceptable tire brand for the City of London Fire Department heavy duty vehicle fleet, at an estimated annual expenditure of approximately \$50,000.00 (HST extra), for a three (3) year period with an option to renew the contract for two (2) additional years **BE ACCEPTED** it being noted that this will be a single source contract as per the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy Section 14.4 e).
- b) Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this contract; and
- c) Approval hereby given **BE CONDITIONAL** upon the Corporation entering into a formal contract or having a purchase order, or contract record relating to the subject matter of this approval.

BACKGROUND

Purpose

This report seeks approval to establish a three (3) year single source contract with an option to renew for an additional two (2) years with Michelin Tires North America (Canada) Inc. to supply tires to the City of London Fire Departments (LFD) heavy duty vehicle fleet to ensure safety and reliability in the operation of Fire Department vehicles in emergency situations.

Discussion

Michelin brand tires have been the tire brand of choice for use on the LFD's heavy fleet vehicles for over a decade, noting that all new fire apparatus purchases made since 2005 have been so specified. Replacement tires have also been Michelins, noting that these tires are purchased from Michelin Tires North America (Canada) Inc. at National Account pricing.

The performance of the Michelin brand tires has proven to be exceptional. Over the past fifteen (15) years, the LFD introduced other brands of tires; however, when those new tires were installed on the frontline fire apparatus, Fire Fighter/Apparatus Operators (drivers) complained of instability and difficultly driving in high speed cornering situations, which resulted in health and safety concerns, as well as concerns expressed for the general public. An analysis of the situation identified that the tread design resulted in phenomena known as "tire squirm", more specifically, the tread face of the tire in contact with the road shifts during high speed cornering, lane changes and evasive maneuvers, which are all common actions during responses to emergency calls. The action leaves the driver feeling that the vehicle is excessively swaying. To immediately remedy the situation, at that time it was necessary to shave off approximately half of the height of the tread, which obviously resulted in additional costs due to reduced tire life.

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Financial Impact

The LFD has spent on average \$45,000 annually on tires over the last three (3) years with \$66,000 being spent in 2013. Funding for this contract is accounted for within the Fire Department Operating budget.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

the LFD has found the Michelin tires to offer superior performance and are excellent at managing the high speed cornering situations of a heavy Fire vehicle and do not “squirm” or very minimally. The resultant performance increases driver confidence and control in alarm speed situations.

Using only Michelin Brand tires on the City of London Fire Department heavy duty vehicle fleet continues to ensure the safety of Fire Department staff and members of the general public. The traction and performance provided by the Michelin tires increases driver confidence and control which ultimately should translate into a reduced risk of accidents, thereby reducing potential liability costs and potential public relations issues.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Don Coleman, Supervisor, Apparatus Division, London Fire Department and Steve Mollon, Procurement Specialist, Purchasing and Supply Division.

SUBMITTED BY:	CONCURRED BY:
JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF	MIKE TURNER DEPUTY CITY TREASURER, FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
RECOMMENDED BY:	
LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES	

Cc: Steve Mollon
John Freeman