

--	--

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 26, 2016
FROM:	JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF, LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT:	FIRE STATION ALERTING RADIOS – LIFE CYCLE REPLACEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- a) The negotiated amount with Harris Canada Systems Inc. (Harris), for the supply and delivery of Fire Station alerting radios at their proposed price of \$169,839.80 HST extra, **BE ACCEPTED**; a single source contract as per the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy Sections 14.4(d) and 14.4(e);
- b) The funding for this project **BE APPROVED** as set out in the Sources of Financing Report attached hereto as Appendix "A";
- c) Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this contract; and
- d) 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.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
--

- Board of Control, October 8, 2008, Tender 08-53 Sole Source one Voice Radio Project
- Board of Control, July 21, 2010, Change in Project Regarding Upgrade to P25 Standards one Voice Radio Project
- Community & Protective Services Committee, November 17, 2015, Radio System Update one Voice 2.0

BACKGROUND

This report seeks Council's approval to purchase life cycle replacement Fire Station alerting radios. It is important to note that Harris stopped supporting the current radios as of December 31, 2015. These radios are a vital part of the London Fire Department (LFD) user gear inventory but they are also an essential component in the larger infrastructure radio system upgrade. These radios must be in place before the system wide upgrade can proceed.

Discussion

To prepare for the Multi-Year Budget, the City requested Harris to conduct an audit and analysis of the existing radio network. The purpose of the project was to provide a life cycle assessment of the existing infrastructure. Based on the findings, Harris recommended a road map to ensure minimal risk to the City's mission critical communications system. The result of that audit identified that an upgrade to existing infrastructure will be required sooner rather than later.

The City of London recently confirmed the continued use of the current Harris P25 radio system. Based on information provided by the oneVoice committee, in November 2015 Council approved an upgrade to the existing radio system. This upgrade is scheduled to occur in 2016.



In addition to infrastructure issues, the Harris audit and analysis also identified several hardware needs related to user gear. The LFD Fire Station alerting radios were one of the user gear components requiring update. Based on these findings, the LFD is requesting approval to purchase the Fire Station alerting radios through a life cycle replacement program. While Council approved the core infrastructure upgrades in November 2015, these radios were not included within the scope of that project as the funding for the Fire Station alerting radios was included in the 2016 capital budget submission and had yet to be approved. The funding is now in place with the approval of the 2016 – 2019 budget.

As noted above, the Fire Station alerting radio purchase is required for the infrastructure upgrade to proceed. Harris cannot guarantee that the existing Fire Station alerting radios features will work reliably when the new SR10A.2 system is implemented. The latter is a software upgrade that is part of the much larger infrastructure project. The Fire Station alerting radios require the ICall feature for fire station alerting. The ICall feature opens up the internal announcement system, turns on the alarm lighting and status messaging which, in turn, sends a Station Acknowledgment back to the Communications Centre. In essence, Harris cannot guarantee fire stations will receive their alerts if the Fire Station alerting radios are not upgraded prior to the infrastructure upgrade.

Single Source Purchase

Fire Administration wishes to advise Council that the requested purchase falls under the “single source” definition of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy (Policy). Radios are mission critical components for Public Safety agencies. Reliability and compatibility of the communications system, including components thereof, are paramount with respect to Firefighter and citizen safety. Furthermore, it is important that the supplier of the radios have the knowledge and expertise with respect to the entire system.

For those reasons noted above, Fire Administration recommends that the Fire Station alerting radios be purchased from the provider of the infrastructure, in this case Harris. The LFD request falls under two areas of the Policy. The first being Section 14.4(d) and the second being Section 14.4(e). The specific sections state:

- 14.4 The procurement may be conducted using a Single Source process if the goods and/or services are available from more than one source, but there are valid and sufficient reasons for selecting one supplier in particular, as follows:
 - d. There is a need for compatibility with goods and/or services previously acquired or the required goods and/or services will be additional to similar goods and/or services being supplied under an existing contract (i.e. contract extension or renewal);
 - e. The required goods and/or services are to be supplied by a particular supplier(s) having special knowledge, skills, expertise or experience;

Financial Impact

The replacement of the Fire Station alerting radios has been quoted by Harris at an amount of \$169,839.80 (HST extra). Fire Station alerting radios will be required in conjunction with the P25 system upgrade to SR10A.2 in 2016. LFD has adequate funding for the purchase within approved capital project PP1045 – Replace Portable Radios.

SUMMARY

The radio system audit and analysis identified the need for some hardware updates including the Fire Station alerting radios. The Fire Station alerting radio purchase in 2016 is required as Harris cannot guarantee current features will work reliably when the new SR10A.2 system is implemented as part of the much larger infrastructure upgrade.

User gear purchases consistent with the larger system wide upgrade equipment ensures compatibility and reliability. The single source procurement of this equipment through Harris in the amount of \$169,839.80 (HST extra) is therefore recommended.

--	--

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Deputy Chief Lori Hamer and Deputy Chief Lazenby, LFD.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
LORI HAMER DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF	JOHN KOBARDA FIRE CHIEF
REVIEWED AND CONCURRED BY:	REVIEWED & CONCURRED BY:
LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN & FIRE SERVICES	ANNA LISA BARBON DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES