

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY and PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 28, 2019</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN AND FIRE SERVICES</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PORTABLE RADIOS FOR FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTORS WORKING ALONE</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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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 supply and delivery of portable radios and accessories by Spectrum Communications Inc. at their proposed price of \$60,036.32 HST extra, **BE ACCEPTED**; as 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.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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None

<b>REASONS FOR THIS MATTER BEING CONSIDERED IN CAMERA</b>
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N/A

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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Fire Prevention Inspectors (FPIs) conduct inspections of properties throughout the City of London to ensure compliance with the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*. Typically, they work alone with little to no contact with other members of the team. Over the last two years, there has been an increasing number of incidents where our FPIs have been in difficult situations, facing significant hostility and physical aggression from property owners or residents, when inspectors have found them in contravention of the Fire Code (grow op, absence of smoke alarms, exposed electrical wiring, etc.).

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* Section 21 Committee for the Fire Service developed a Guideline in December 2017 (*GN-5-02, Considerations for Working Alone*) that addresses concerns for working alone.

Two considerations from that guidance note are as follows:

- *a reliable method for knowing the location of their workers at all times, for example, a check-in/check-out procedure for workers, by cell phone or radio, to a supervisor or dispatch centre, and preparing a daily work plan,*
- *a predetermined response to distress calls from workers.*

In response to this Guidance Note, early in 2018, London Fire Department (LFD) purchased a software product called Nova Talk that was already in use by other city employees. Nova Talk was added as an app to all FPI smartphones because of its *push to talk* feature. Trials showed this product would not be viable due to connectivity issues, with all cell phones dropping the Nova talk signal without warning to the user, particularly when staff were in building basements or old, thick concrete buildings. This required the user to log back into the system to reset the application. As a result it was determined that this was not the best product for use in the field.

LFD therefore proposes to issue portable radios and follow a set-up similar to that of suppression staff. The proposed portable radios do not have connectivity issues and have been in use by suppression firefighters for years in similar settings. The proposed portable radios will provide a direct line of communication to the London Fire Department Communications Centre if a FPI requires immediate assistance. The proposed radios will be equipped with a panic button that will have a direct link to the Communications Centre in the event of a hostile situation in the field.

Firefighters currently use portable radios that are dual band (required for vehicle repeaters on apparatus), with intrinsically safe technology, and immersion rated (required for water and ice rescue). These portable radios are part of our current communication protocols and directly connected with our Communications Centre.

LFD proposes to purchase similar portable radios for the FPIs. These radios will be less expensive than those used by our suppression Firefighters because they are not required to be dual band, they do not require intrinsically safe technology, and they are not immersion rated.

Purchasing from the same source according to Sections 14.4(d) and (e) of the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy will maintain consistency and tie in with the established system of maintaining contact. FPIs will be in direct communication with Communications Dispatchers in the Communications Centre.

LFD recommends purchase of 24 portable radios with necessary accessories for the budgeted complement of 21 FPIs plus 3 spares, at a total cost before tax of \$60,036.32 as quoted by Spectrum Communications, with whom we have preferred pricing through a City contract.

These radios have a lifecycle of 10 years, and replacement will be planned in future capital budgets.

Along with these radios, procedures will be developed requiring our FPIs to check in prior to inspections and directly after inspections with Communicators to ensure their safety. Procedures will also be developed to handle circumstances where FPIs require assistance, both immediate and non-immediate to deal with a hostile situation.

<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>
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LFD has adequate funding available for the purchase of 24 portable radios at a cost before tax of \$60,036.32 in capital project PP112316 Firefighter Equipment – Changing Standards.

<b>SUMMARY</b>
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London Fire Department is requesting approval for the purchase of 24 portable radios for Fire Prevention Inspectors (FPIs) as a health and safety measure to compensate for potential unsafe situations when they are working alone, as a single source purchase according to the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy section 14.4 (d) and (e).

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
   <b>JACK BURT, ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF, FIRE PREVENTION &amp; PUBLIC EDUCATION</b>	   <b>LORI HAMER, FIRE CHIEF, LONDON FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>
<b>CONCURRED BY:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>
   <b>JOHN FREEMAN, MANAGER, PURCHASING AND SUPPLY</b>	   <b>LYNNE LIVINGSTONE, MANAGING DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD, CHILDREN &amp; FIRE SERVICES</b>

C. Jason Davies, Financial Planning & Policy