

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE NOVEMBER 7, 2005

VOTE TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Recommendation

The City Clerk and Returning Officer recommends:

That a RFP be issued to lease optical scan vote tabulating equipment for use in each voting location for the November 13, 2006 municipal election.

Economic Impact

There are sufficient funds in the election reserve account to cover the costs of leasing vote tabulating equipment.

Purpose

To report to Council on the use of vote tabulating equipment for use in the November 13, 2006 municipal election.

Background - Analysis and Options

In 1991, the City of Vaughan pioneered the use of central count optical scan vote tabulating equipment in the Region of York. This equipment has been a cost-effective way to conduct elections and produces quick accurate election results. The equipment has paid for itself many times over and has reduced election costs over the years. The equipment is now outdated and Council is desirous of having election results quicker on election night than can be provided with the use of this equipment.

The most cost effective, secure and accurate way to produce more timely election results is to utilize optical scan vote tabulating equipment at each voting location. The equipment would tabulate the results during the day but the results would not be released until after the polls close. At that time the results would be conveyed to City Hall and publicized. The election results would be available much earlier than they are using our current central count system that requires all ballots to be transported to City Hall, then counted and released.

There are other methods of conducting elections such as vote by mail, telephone voting, touch screen vote tabulators and internet voting. However, in a large municipality such as Vaughan, the most secure, accurate and cost effective way to produce election results is by the use of optical scan vote tabulators in each voting location.

As members of Council are aware, optical scan vote tabulators were used at all voting locations in the 2004 Ward 5 by-election. The use of the equipment was well received by the public and produced fast accurate results.

It is being recommended that similar equipment be used for the November 13, 2006 municipal election. As vote tabulating systems technology is changing so quickly, it is not prudent to purchase equipment that most likely would quickly become outdated. As the cost to lease equipment will exceed \$100,000.00, a RFP would be in order. There are sufficient funds in the election reserve to fund this initiative. Therefore, it is being recommended that a RFP be issued for optical scan vote tabulators for use in the November 13, 2006 municipal election.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

It is recommended that a RFP be issued for optical scan vote tabulators for use in the November 13, 2006 municipal election.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by:

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk