

**CONTRACT AWARD – RFP 06-13**  
**VOTE TABULATING EQUIPMENT**

**Recommendation**

The City Clerk and Returning Officer, in consultation with the Director of Purchasing Services, recommends:

- 1) That the contract for RFP 06-13 Vote Tabulating Equipment be awarded to Dominion Voting Systems at a contract value of \$267,852.00;
- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary documents; and
- 3) That the report of the City Clerk and Returning Officer, dated April 18, 2006, be received.

**Economic Impact**

The source of funds will be the election reserve.

**Purpose**

To award a contract for the lease of optical scan vote tabulating equipment to Dominion Voting Systems pursuant to the issuance of an RFP as directed by Council.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council has indicated a desire for election results to be provided in less time on election night than in the past and to this end directed that an RFP be used for the lease of optical scan vote tabulating equipment. An RFP was issued. Three documents were sent and two were received, one of which was non-compliant.

The proposal is for the lease of 125 vote tabulators. A vote tabulator would be located in each voting location. There will be approximately 110 locations. This will entail a significant reduction in the number of polls from the previous election. At a recent Committee of the Whole (Working Session) concern was expressed that this would result in poll-by-poll results being provided for larger areas than in the past, which would be the case. A request was made that the Clerk investigate whether accommodations could be made to have more polls so that the results would be available for smaller areas. The best way to accomplish this would be to lease more tabulators to increase the number of reporting polls. This could be done and the cost for each additional unit would be a thousand dollars. In order to increase the number of polls to be similar to the number in the 2003 election, the additional cost would be approximately \$320,000.00 which is prohibitive. Alternatively the tabulators could be programmed to accept ballots from more than one poll at any given location. This would require manually coding the back side of each ballot by the poll workers. This would be administratively cumbersome, time-consuming and increase the possibility of error. It is strongly recommended that this not be done. Should Council wish to expend additional funds to lease more tabulators to increase the number of polls, direction could be given to that end.

The system that was provided for in the RFP will provide fast accurate results in a cost-effective manner. It will also provide an enhanced level of service to the voters. With this system, unlike central count systems such as the one previously used in Vaughan or in a manual-count election, if a voter over votes his/her ballot the machine returns the ballot to the poll worker who can advise the voter that an office has been over voted. The voter is then given the chance to vote on another ballot and the first ballot is cancelled. Alternatively, if the voter declines, the machine will tabulate the votes on the original ballot that had been properly recorded. This will reduce the number of votes lost because voters inadvertently voted for more candidates than those eligible to be elected to each office

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities set forth in Vaughan Vision 2007, particularly 'A-1', "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services" and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

Council directed that an RFP be issued for vote tabulating equipment. An RFP was issued and it would be in order to award the contract to the successful proponent.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Report prepared by:**

John D. Leach, City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Leach, City Clerk