

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JANUARY 16, 2006

CONTRACT AWARD – RFP05-121 AUTOMATED VEHICLE LOCATION (AVL) SYSTEM

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering & Public Works and the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Director of Purchasing Services and the Director of Public Works, recommends:

1. That a contract for RFP05-121 Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) System be awarded to Grey Island Systems Inc. at an estimated contract value of \$124,568.00 for a total of three years;
2. That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary documents.

Economic Impact

The estimated annual operating costs are within the proposed 2006 Operating Budget.

Purpose

To award contract RFP05-121 for an Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system.

Background - Analysis and Options

Public Works requires the use of an AVL system based on Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to assist with the delivery of services, monitor maintenance activities, confirm levels of service have been met, help defend against claims, and mitigate the need for additional supervisory staff. Public Works benefited from an AVL system from 2002 to 2004, at which time the contract with the service provider (Grey Island Systems Inc.) expired.

The "Request For Proposal" format was selected in order to allow the proponents to be creative in their solutions and meet budget constraints. Public Works staff collaborated closely with the City's IT Department to create the RFP document. Proponents were requested to provide:

- a passive/live on demand tracking system with a capability for up to 60 units (approx. 1/2 the winter fleet);
- a system that is expandable;
- a system that would be hosted by the City; and,
- a system that could re-use the existing City owned AVL equipment.

A passive/live on demand system is one that collects operating data and downloads it when the vehicle returns to the yard at any time of the day (passive), with an option to switch to a real time data retrieval (live) during such operations as snow ploughing, where it is required to verify that work is on schedule, identify vehicle breakdowns and re-deploy resources for a more efficient and effective operation. As the City has AVL units from the previous program, a system was needed that could utilize the existing equipment in the new program. The coverage was limited to ½ the winter fleet in an attempt to stay within budget, yet the system had to have the capability of expansion should additional funding become available. Hosting the solution in-house would enable staff to re-assign the units from winter to summer operations faster, update mapping and archive the data, without relying on outside agencies.

The RFP was advertised on the Electronic Tendering Network (ETN) and the Ontario Public Buyers Association website on August 3rd, 2005.

A mandatory meeting was scheduled for interested participants on August 17th, 2005, to provide a better comprehension of the requirements. The bids closed on September 1, 2005. A total of sixteen documents were issued by the Purchasing Services Department. A total of six responses were received with four proposals deemed non-compliant. The remaining two proposals proceeded to the evaluation stage.

Compliant proposals were subjected to a three step evaluation. Step 1 dealt with technical components and specifications. Step 2 evaluated the company overall and the cost of the solution. As Grey Island was clearly identified as the frontrunner during the two first steps, they were requested to proceed with Step 3 and present their solution.

The Evaluation Team consisted of appropriate staff from the Public Works Department and staff from the Information & Technology Management Department, and was witnessed by staff from the Purchasing Services Department. The proposals received the following rating:

EVALUATION RESULTS FOR RFP05-121 AUTOMATED VEHICLE LOCATION (AVL) SYSTEM			
Contractor	Step 1 Technical	Step 2 Overall & Cost	Step 3 Demonstration
Grey Island Systems Inc.	172/300	79.5/100	30/50
Bell Canada Enterprise	169/300	43.6/100	Not invited to present

In addition to scoring the highest points, the submission by Grey Island was the least expensive and was the only submission within the budget funds available.

Grey Island Systems Inc.'s solution to our RFP for a passive system is to offer a live system relying on competitively priced airtime. Their proposal provides a positive value to our basic requirement, while the cost of implementation remains within our current budget. Their solution uses the City owned AVL units, is expandable and could be applied to other departments. The Bylaw Enforcement Department and Solid Waste Management Section have expressed interest in adopting this technology once it is in place. Due to budget considerations, neither proponent could provide a City hosted solution at an economical price.

Concerns relating to Grey Island's service level and response time have been discussed during negotiations and mechanisms have been inserted into the agreement to prevent and correct any delays in service.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, specifically Vaughan Vision's A-1 "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services" and D-1 "Enhance Productivity & Cost Effectiveness".

Conclusion

Based on the evaluation of the proposals and the positive value offered to the City of Vaughan, it is recommended that the contract for RFP05-121 Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) System be awarded to Grey Island Systems Inc.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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