

**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; and
- 2) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary documents.

**Economic Impact**

There are sufficient funds in the election reserve to fund the lease of the equipment and the cost of the November 13, 2006 municipal election.

**Purpose**

To report on information requested by Council respecting the award of Contract RFP-06-13.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

Council directed that an RFP be issued for poll counter vote tabulating equipment to provide fast accurate results for the November 13<sup>th</sup> municipal election. Staff reported to Council on April 24, 2006 recommending that a contract be awarded to Dominion Voting systems. At that time, a number of issues were raised including costs, other options and a request that a demonstration of the equipment be arranged for members of Council. A demonstration was conducted on May 8<sup>th</sup> and a number of Councillors attended.

One of the issues that had been raised at Council on April 24<sup>th</sup> was whether the current vote tabulating equipment in use since 1991 could be used again as there had been indications that the vendor would no longer support the equipment. Enquiries were made and the vendor has indicated they would support the system including a software upgrade. This would be the most cost effective way to conduct the upcoming election however it is not recommended. Council has indicated a desire to have election results reported earlier than in the past on election night which has been at approximately 10:30 p.m. Given the increase in population since the last election and the anticipated higher voter turnout for the upcoming election if the current system is used election results would not be available until at least 11:30 p.m. which is probably unacceptable.

Council has indicated it would like to consider alternatives to leasing equipment. Recognizing that Council is desirous of having fast accurate election results, the most cost effective options would be to lease or purchase a central count system or a poll counter system which has been recommended. The cost to lease a new central count system would be approximately \$70,000. and \$220,000. to purchase. If such a system were to be used election results should be available at approximately 10:30 p.m. The cost of the proposed poll count system would be as indicated above \$267,852. to lease or \$525,000. to purchase. It should be noted that the comparative cost to lease the poll counters is approximately \$150,000. as the RFP price of \$267,852. includes the cost of the ballots, support service, software license, taxes, et cetera. A poll counter system should provide election results before 9:00 p.m.

For ease of reference, the aforementioned cost comparisons are set out in the following table:

	<u>Poll Count</u>	<u>Central Count</u>
Lease	\$150,000.	\$ 70,000.
Purchase	\$525,000.	\$220,000.

Given that voting technology is changing quickly and Council's desire to have election results provided earlier than in the past on election night and the need to conduct elections in a cost effective manner, it is being recommended that a poll count system be leased.

#### **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,

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John D. Leach,  
City Clerk

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Janice Atwood-Petkovski,  
Commissioner of Legal and Administrative Services