



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Sole Source Purchase of Proprietary Shelter Equipment from HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. for Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Team

Date:	October 21, 2009
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	General Manager/Fire Chief, Toronto Fire Services Director, Purchasing and Materials Management Division
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council authority to allow a sole source purchase of a proprietary shelter system from HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. for the Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team (HUSAR).

The shelter system being purchased has been determined to be the standard for the five national HUSAR Teams to ensure inter-operability at any national deployment or exercise. This purchase is part of an approved Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) grant, wherein the Federal government reimburses 75% of the total cost of the purchase.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager/Fire Chief of Toronto Fire Services and the Director of Purchasing and Materials Management recommend that:

Council grant authority to authorize staff to award a sole source contract for the procurement of Base X shelter systems for the Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team to HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$670,978.33 CDN, net of GST (\$645,883.74 US).

Financial Impact

The total potential contract award identified in this report is approximately \$702,042.14 CDN* (\$675,785.76 US) including all taxes and charges. The total potential cost to the City net of GST is \$670,978.33 CDN (\$645,883.74 US).

Funding for the purchase of the Base X shelter system has been included in the 2010 Recommended Capital Budget for Fire Services scheduled to be approved at the end of 2009. The project costs have been approved by, and are 75% funded by, the Federal government under the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP). Each such project must be scheduled to be completed within the assigned federal fiscal year, in this case ending March 31, 2010. Approval is being sought for this sole source purchase in advance of the cash flow in an effort to begin the process on January 1, 2010 to meet the March 31 deadline.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

* Footnote: source Bank of Canada - 1\$CAD = 0.9626 \$US – October 16, 2009 Noon Rate

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto HUSAR has been in existence since 1999, with federal funding supporting the initiative since the 2001-2002 Federal fiscal year. Due to the nature of the program, and the need for inter-operability for the five national HUSAR Teams, a number of purchases require sole source approval, following testing of products during exercise conditions.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Team is part of the Federal HUSAR program, which currently involves four other teams, including Vancouver, Calgary, Manitoba, and Halifax. Toronto HUSAR is a multi-agency initiative led by Toronto Fire Services, and includes members from Toronto Police, Toronto Emergency Medical Services, and Toronto Fire Services.

In recent years, the five national HUSAR Teams have met annually to develop priorities, set budgets, plan exercises and make decisions with respect to equipping the teams in a standard manner that will allow maximum interoperability in the case of a deployment or an exercise. Over the past couple of years, Base-X has been adopted as the standard in Canada for the Base of Operations Camps for all five teams. It is critical to the operations of all the teams involved to have the ability to connect these systems as required in disaster situations.

COMMENTS

Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team (HUSAR) is one of five national teams and is developing its deployment cache on the basis of agreed-upon standard for all team to ensure interoperability at the scene of a major deployment.

The national HUSAR program has adopted the Base X shelter system as the national standard for interoperability of base camps across Canada. The decision to use these shelter systems was made by all five team leads across Canada in an annual meeting in 2007. There are five HUSAR teams in Canada, Vancouver, Alberta, Manitoba, Toronto and Halifax. Currently Alberta and Manitoba have purchased full camps in order to comply with the standard camp system. Both Toronto and Vancouver have started to purchase these shelter systems in 2008 and now will complete the purchase in 2010.

Base X shelter systems have been previously purchased in Toronto and funded at 75% by the Federal government in the 2008-2009 federal fiscal year, in the amount of \$324,000 Canadian.

The sole source purchase requested herein has been approved by the federal government for 75% funding, and will complete the purchase of the shelter systems to support Toronto HUSAR's Base of Operations Camp. In order to meet federal funding requirements, this purchase must be made prior to March 31, 2010.

The price quoted by HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. has been reviewed by Toronto Fire Services and is considered to be fair and reasonable. The prices quoted by HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. have been confirmed to be a preferred rate well below their international price list and the price quoted is only offered to HUSAR Teams & Support Units.

The Fair Wage Office has reported that the recommended firm has indicated that it has reviewed and understands the Fair Wage Policy and Labour Trades requirements and has agreed to comply fully.

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SIGNATURE

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