



REPORT FOR ACTION

Amendment to Blanket Contract No. 47020330 to Sani Gear Inc., for the provision of a care and maintenance program for Firefighting Structural Bunker Suits

Date: August 4, 2020

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services
and Chief Procurement Officer

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request authority to amend Blanket Contract 47020330 awarded to Sani Gear Inc., as a result of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) 0105-16-0062 for the non-exclusive provision of a care and maintenance program for Firefighting Structural Bunker Suits for the City of Toronto's Fire Services. The total amendment being requested is for an additional \$1,306,958 net of all applicable taxes and charges, (\$1,329,961 net of HST recoveries) for the third option year period (January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020), and for the fourth and final option renewal year period commencing on January 1, 2021, and ending on December 31, 2021, revising the total current Blanket Contract value from \$1,458,183 to \$2,765,141 net of all applicable taxes and charges.

The requested contract amendment is required to address the current contract shortfall due to the underestimated and increased frequency in additional cleaning and maintenance of Firefighting Structural Bunker Suits (Bunker Suits), and to address the additional advanced cleaning requirements that are now required in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1851-2020 - Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting (NFPA 1851-2020). Toronto Fire Services (TFS) will request the additional funds required in order to implement the requirements contained in NFPA 1851-2020, which include expanded advanced cleaning protocols, as part of the 2021 operating budgeting submission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services and the Chief Procurement Officer recommend:

1. Economic and Community Development Committee in accordance with Section 71-11.1C of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 71 - Financial Control By-law grant authority to amend Contract 47020330 with Sani Gear Inc., for the non-exclusive provision of a care and maintenance program for Firefighting Structural Bunker Suits for the City of Toronto's Fire Services, by an additional amount of \$1,306,958 net of all taxes and charges, (\$1,329,961 net of HST recoveries), revising the current contract value from \$1,458,183 net of all taxes and charges, (\$1,483,847 net of HST recoveries) to \$2,765,141 net all taxes and charges (\$2,813,807 net of HST recoveries).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The requested amendment to Contract 47020330 is \$1,306,958, net of all taxes, and charges (\$1,329,961 net of HST recoveries). This will increase the contract value from \$1,458,183 net of all taxes and charges (\$1,483,847 net of HST recoveries), to \$2,765,141 net of all taxes and charges, (\$2,813,807 net of HST recoveries).

Funding for the requested amendment is included in the 2020 Approved Operating Budget for Toronto Fire Services. The budget is included in Cost Centre FR0019, Cost Element 2665. If the optional fourth and final renewal year is exercised, then sufficient funding will be included in the 2021 Operating Budget Submission for Toronto Fire Services. The cash flow breakdown for the requested amendment increase follows in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Impact on Sani Gear Inc. Blanket Contract		
Budget Year	2020	2021
FR0019/2665	\$ 419,082	\$ 910,879
Total (net of HST recoveries)	\$ 1,329,961	

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of January 31, 2017, City Council adopted the award of Request for Proposal (RFQ) No. 0105-16-0062 to Sani Gear Inc., the only compliant bidder, for the non-exclusive provision of a care and maintenance program for Firefighting Structural Bunker Suits:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD17.4>

COMMENTS

Bunker Suits are an integral part of the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) used by firefighters and are comprised of a jacket and pant ensemble that provide protection to firefighters during firefighting operations. Bunker Suits are exposed to extreme conditions including extreme heat, smoke, chemical and substance exposure, and many by-products of combustion. These exposures often result in contamination, wear and damage to the Bunker Suits.

Ontario Ministry of Labour regulations and guidelines require that all Bunker Suits meet the requirements on NFPA 1971-2018 - Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting. This standard establishes minimal thermal, physical, environmental, and blood borne pathogen protection performance standards for Bunker Suit. Additionally, each Bunker Suit must be maintained, repaired, tested and retired in accordance with NFPA 1851-2020.

Bunker Suits that become soiled or contaminated are a hazard to firefighters, since some elements may be flammable, toxic or carcinogenic. Additionally, soiled or contaminated Bunker Suits can have reduced protective performance. Proper and regular cleaning of Bunker Suits provides firefighters with better protection and can extend the useful life of the PPE. All cleaning and maintenance of Bunker Suits must comply with NFPA 1851-2020.

Additional Advanced Cleaning Impact

NFPA 1851-2020 contains amendments in the requirements for advanced cleaning. These amendments require the implementation of an additional advanced cleaning protocol on an annual basis. Accordingly, TFS will be required to migrate from one (1) advanced cleaning for each Bunker Suit, to two (2) within each 12-month period. The cost of this increase over a 12 month period is \$226,985 net of all applicable taxes and charges, (\$230,980 net of HST recoveries).

Procedures and Protocols to Reduce Costs

In addition to the changes in NFPA 1851-2020, requiring the increased number of advanced bunker suit cleanings from once to twice a year, TFS regularly has need for additional cleaning of bunker suits as a result contamination during daily use. To attempt to minimize the number of these additional cleanings going forward, TFS is currently reviewing a number of policies and procedures to identify opportunities to manage the routine cleaning and disinfection process internally. As there is no way to accurately predict the severity / number of additional routine and/or advanced cleanings required, TFS has requested the increase in the contract capacity based on the recent trend in additional cleanings of Bunker Gear required to ensure coverage for the rest of the contract period.

Advanced cleaning is now required every six (6) months instead of annually and must be performed in a programmable washer extractor with a specified maximum acceleration. These washing machines (extractors) use a special cycle with controlled temperatures, multiple rinse cycles, water levels, and cycle times to address the proper washing of Bunker Suits. TFS will endeavour to investigate on whether existing in-house extractors meet this standard or can be upgraded to meet this requirement.

Additionally, there are protocols for the sanitization and disinfection of protective clothing when contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, and other biological contaminants, such as flood water. Sanitization should precede advanced cleaning, but can also be part of the advanced cleaning process. Sanitizers and disinfectants used in cleaning must comply with Environment Protection Agency registration requirements. TFS will investigate whether this can be combined with our present extractor dispensing methods.

A process for the cleaning of Bunker Suits during TFS Operations Firefighter recruit classes has been developed. The processes included in the schedule should lessen the need for recruit Bunker Suit cleaning. In addition, another schedule has been prepared and is being tested using TFS on-site extractors and dryers at the Toronto Fire Academy. This should ensure recruit Bunker Suits are cleaned, dried, and returned back to the firefighter without TFS being required to send the bunker suits to the contracted service provider for advanced cleaning, during the recruit training period.

On a go-forward basis, TFS will investigate and test the viability of reducing the need for Firefighters to wear a Bunker Suit for medical-related emergency responses. The firefighter will still be required to wear long NFPA-compliant, department-issued fatigue pants, collared shirts, and all necessary Personal Protective Equipment. If this is proven to be a viable option, it should further reduce the cost for additional cleaning, heat stress on the crews, and excessive wear on the bunker suit.

While TFS has identified a number of ways to mitigate overspending on this contract, there is no way to accurately calculate these impacts in the short term. A significant factor in this need to increase the value of the contract is the change in NFPA 851-2020 requirements, which has doubled the number of professional cleanings mandated every

year. This was not a requirement at the time of the RFQ competition, and therefore was not calculated into the contract estimate.

Maintaining compliance with the provisions of NFPA 1851-2020 is a requirement of the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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