

Non-Competitive Contract to purchase emergency shelters, tents and environmental equipment for Toronto Fire Services, Heavy Urban Search and Rescue team with HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc.

Date: April 14, 2022

To: General Government and Licensing Committee

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

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek City Council authority for the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services (TFS) to negotiate and enter into a non-competitive agreement with HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. for the supply and delivery of various Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) temporary shelters, and environmental equipment for a one-time procurement in the amount of \$165,608 USD, excluding custom broker fees and HST; (\$212,339 CDN net of HST recoveries, and exclusive of custom broker fees).

TFS is seeking a non-competitive purchase for these items with the main purpose to replace HUSAR equipment that was required during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to meet the requirements of operational readiness. Matching the current extensive cache, by utilizing the supplier TFS previously had a contract with will: (i) ensure consistency and inter-operability: (ii) assist with operational readiness as HUSAR staff are already trained to construct and maintain them: (iii) reduce any potential costs related to repairs as replacement parts are already stocked from the existing cache.

City Council approval is required in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 195, Purchasing, where the current request exceeds the Chief Purchasing Officer's authority of the cumulative five year commitment for each supplier, under Article 7, Section 195-7.3 (D) of the Purchasing By-Law or exceeds the threshold of \$500,000 net of HST allowed under staff authority as per the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 71- Financial Control, Section 71-11 (A).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services to negotiate and enter into a one-time non-competitive procurement with HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc., for the amount of \$165,608 USD, excluding custom broker fees and HST; \$208,666 *CAD, net of HST, and custom broker fees; \$212,339 CDN excluding custom broker fees and net of HST recoveries; \$235,793, including HST, exclusive of custom broker fees.

*CAD/US exchange rate March 2022: 1.26.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total potential cost to the City identified in this report is \$165,608 USD net of HST and custom broker fees, \$208,666 CAD excluding all taxes and custom broker fees, \$212,339 CAD net of HST recoveries excluding custom broker fees and; \$235,793 CAD, including HST, exclusive of custom broker fees.

Annual funding for this contract award is included in the 2022 Operating Budget for Toronto Fire Services. Funding details are summarized in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Financial Impact Summary (Net of HST Recoveries)

Cost Centre	Cost Element	Total (Excluding Custom Broker Fees)
FR0026/FR0046/FR0035	3099	\$212,339 (CDN)
FR0035	3045	

Note: \$CDN amount - subject to exchange rate fluctuation.

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

DECISION HISTORY

On November 30, December 1, 2, 4 and 7, 2009 City Council, adopted item CD28.7 for the provision of tents for Base Operations for HUSAR all in accordance with the HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$670,978.33 CDN, net of GST (\$645,883.74 US).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.CD28.7>

COMMENTS

TFS manages and operates Ontario's Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team. The HUSAR program, which has been in effect since early 2000, is designed to have trained personnel ready for response to any disaster in the province of Ontario such as structural collapses, and any other disasters where a city or town requires assistance. The HUSAR team is made up of Toronto Fire, Police, and Paramedic Services, doctors from Sunnybrook Hospital, and a K9 unit comprised of five dogs. This team of highly trained members responds when deployed in order to conduct rescue and recovery operations, lost or missing persons searches, and shoring of collapsed buildings. The term "Heavy" is defined as being capable of responding to all collapsed or failed structures, operating for ten (10) consecutive days with resupply within three (3) days, and capacity to treat 10 critical, 25 moderate and 25 plus minor patients. A response of this magnitude requires an extensive amount of staff, equipment, and resources, including tents, heaters, generators, satellite dishes, and water filtration.

While on scene of a multi-day incident, it is necessary to have a temporary shelter to house the various aspects of the HUSAR team (command, logistics, medical, rehab, and hygiene). To ensure self-sufficiency for 10 days in all potential climates, the addition of climate control is also paramount on how the team conducts rescue operations to provide a controlled environment to sustain long operating periods with portable heaters or air conditioners depending on the season. With an extensive cache of equipment, the team is constantly maintaining, expanding, and replacing aging / expired equipment to ensure operational readiness.

TFS' HUSAR assets were called upon in April 2020, at the beginning of Toronto's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to implement a temporary structure to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing of emergency services personnel. A substantial shelter system was put in place consisting of six (6) tents, two (2) heaters, two (2) air conditioning units, and one large portable generator.

The initial intent was a short-term solution with the goal of finding other accommodations, but due to the unforeseen nature of the pandemic, this temporary facility remained in service until March 2022. With the prolonged exposure to the elements including high winds, snow loads, and UV exposure, the life cycle of the shelters and equipment was expedited.

As a result, the used shelters and heating equipment is not eligible to be put in operational readiness state for deployment. Consequently, after a nearly two (2) year use of these items, the equipment must now be replaced. Once replaced, the old equipment will be used for training purposes.

TFS is requesting approval to replace this equipment with a onetime, non-competitive purchase to restock the inventory of equipment with a supply that matches and works with the rest of the stock. Matching the current extensive cache, by utilizing the supplier TFS previously had a contract with will: (i) ensure consistency and inter-operability: (ii) assist with operational readiness as Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) staff

are already trained to construct and maintain them: (iii) reduce any potential costs related to repairs as replacement parts are already stocked from the existing cache.

TFS previously had a contract with HDT Expeditionary Systems Inc. for the provision of these materials, so utilizing the same products will minimize training requirements. Additionally, this vendor provides equipment to a partner agency, Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) ensuring interoperability and compatibility on scene of incidents where both services are required. Finally, as the tents are already used by the HUSAR team, repair parts are available to keep them operationally ready.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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