

## STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Committee of the Whole **MEETING:** June 12, 2018

**FROM:** Doug Gardiner **FILE:** 2240 20 CHFD

Fire Service Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Coombs Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Tender Award

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board award the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus contract to Guillevin International at a cost of \$227,700.53 before taxes to be funded by the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Service capital reserve fund.

## **SUMMARY**

The Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department (CHVFD) has in the 2018 to 2022 Capital Plan a budget to include the replacement of their Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) equipment in 2018. Current equipment is reaching the end of its approved life with seven (7) of the existing units requiring considerable repair and currently unable to be used in service due to air frame cracks.

A Request for Tender (RFT) for replacement SCBA equipment was publicly posted on April 27, 2018. One proposal was submitted from Guillevin International at a total value before taxes of \$227,700.53. Based on compliance with tender specifications, quality, service and decreased operational costs, it is recommended that the contract be awarded to Guillevin International.

## **BACKGROUND**

Self-contained breathing apparatus is a device worn by firefighters to provide breathable air in an immediately dangerous to life or health atmosphere. SCBA is an essential piece of safety equipment to fire ground operations and firefighter safety and a WorkSafe BC requirement for structural firefighting. The SCBA used by the CHVFD is approaching 30 years of age and is at the end of its usable life span. Out of 25 SCBA, seven (7) of the CHVFD existing units have been rendered unusable due to cracks in a component called the "air frame" which is the harness assembly that holds the tank and breathing apparatus together like a backpack that the firefighter wears.

The CHVFD had budgeted and prepared to update their SCBA in 2018. This included a change in brand of SCBA to "Scott Air Pak" which enables CHVFD to use the same type of breathing apparatus as their mutual aid and automatic aid partners during large multi-jurisdictional incidents. Additionally, the updated equipment was to change from 2215 pound per square inch (PSI) bottle that enabled approximately 30 minutes of working time for a firefighter, to a 4500 PSI bottle that provides approximately 45 minutes of working time. The primary benefit for firefighter safety is to allow more

time to get out of a dangerous atmosphere. This change in SCBA equipment and the necessary air pressure for new Scott Air Paks necessitated also purchasing a new compressor and fill station.

In January 2018, before a new compressor and fill station could be purchased, the CHVFD failed two consecutive air quality tests for their breathing apparatus. CHVFD had to immediately repair their SCBA fill station and compressor for fire fighter safety, due to contamination from the compressor failing. The repairs were addressed through the CHVFD Operating Budget and resulted in the fill station being upgraded to the 4500 PSI air pressure requirements for the new SCBA. The new compressor was installed in May of this year and now the CHVFD is in need of completing the purchase of the Scott Air Paks for the firefighters.

A Request for Tender for replacement SCBA equipment was publicly posted on April 27, 2018. The RFT issued was specific to sourcing Scott Air Pak equipment which provides a robust warranty with support available on Vancouver Island. The new Scott Air Pak system will provide a longer supply of breathing air, are considered to be very reliable, are widely used in the fire industry, and have a predicted life span of 30 years.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1. That the Board award the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus contract to Guillevin International at a cost of \$227,700.53 before tax to be funded by the Coombs-Hilliers Fire Service capital reserve fund.
- 2. That alternative direction be provided to staff.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Coombs-Hilliers' 2018 approved budget provided \$260,000 from reserves for the SCBA equipment purchase as well as for replacement of the compressor required for filling the SCBA units.

The cost of twenty five (25) SCBA units, plus related equipment, is \$227,700.53 before taxes (PST & GST). With the cost added for the new compressor (\$48,394 + tax), the total budget impact is \$276,094.53 which is \$16,094.53 higher than the anticipated costs that were included and approved in the 2018 budget. The capital reserve fund for CHVFD has sufficient additional funds to offset the additional cost for the breathing apparatus without impacting the Coombs-Hilliers five year capital purchase plan.

Of note, the CHVFD projects an annual reduction in operating costs of approximately \$4,500 per year due to reduced maintenance costs that will be realized from the purchase of the new SCBA equipment.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Ensuring the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) fire departments are provided with effective and reliable firefighting equipment is reflected under the RDN Strategic Priority of supporting Emergency Services as a core element of community safety. As well, the strategic purchase of equipment that is compatible with other fire departments in the RDN and that has been proven to provide long-term

service to fire departments also supports the Strategic Priority of funding infrastructure in support of our core services employing an asset management focus.

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Doug Gardiner dgardiner@rdn.bc.ca May 30, 2018

# Reviewed by:

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- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer