



Corporate NO: R238

Report COUNCIL DATE: October 30, 2000_

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	October 12, 2000
FROM:	Fire Chief	FILE:	0645-001
SUBJECT:	Award of Tender MS 2.1.00		

RECOMMENDATION

To award Tender MS.2.1.00 for the supply of three 1500 Imperial Gallon Per Minute (IGPM) 75 ft. Aerial Ladder Quints to Smeal Fire Apparatus Company in the amount of \$2,487,042 including all applicable taxes.

BACKGROUND

Tenders were received from:

- Ferrara Fire Engines of Louisiana for a Ferrara Inferno Cab & Chassis with a single axle (\$2,879,653.00)
- American Lafrance L.T.I. Freightliner of Surrey for an American Lafrance cab & chassis with a tag axle (\$2,489,974.50)
- Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. of Snyder Nebraska for a Spartan Gladiator Cab & Chassis with a tag axle (\$2,487,042.00)

The tenders were opened on April 19, 2000 and evaluated. Due to the complexities of the tenders and the optimization initiatives launched by the Fire Department, we were unable to meet the 60-day offer contained in the tender. We subsequently wrote the three bidders on July 26, 2000 requesting price protection until October 31, 2000, all bidders agreed to the extension and price protection to October 31, 2000.

The tender offer from Ferrara Fire has been rejected due to price. The tender offers from American Lafrance and Smeal Fire Apparatus were tendered to meet specifications. The tender offer from Smeal Fire Apparatus is low tender therefore the offer from American Lafrance L.T.I. Freightliner is rejected due to price.

The Smeal manufactured aerial ladder component has greater acceptance locally and is currently in use in several GVRD communities such as Vancouver, Burnaby, West Vancouver, Delta, Abbotsford and Richmond. Besides the 75' Quint Units, several of the Municipalities referenced also have 100' Smeal Aerial Platforms in operation. In the lower mainland region today, Smeal has a combination of over 30 units in service that range in size from 55 to 100'.

This will afford us the opportunity to establish alliances for the exchange of information and shared parts inventories. Our user surveys have indicated that initial operator training, maintenance training and operating costs are less onerous with the Smeal unit in comparison to the other tendered units. These assessments were based on the actual field experiences of Fire Departments in North America who have purchased units manufactured by Smeal, LTI and/or Ferrara. The direct staff training impacts to Surrey are minimal in as much as most staff that will be assigned to these units are already certified in either aerial operations and/or rescue applications. For those employees that do not have these certifications, training will be provided in-house at regularly scheduled training sessions. Aerial Ladder and/or Rescue certified training sessions are an on-going part of our training initiatives required to accommodate staff changes and roster adjustments for vacation relief and promotional opportunities that must continue to be met, the cost implications of providing this training are minimal (16 days of instructor time @ \$300. per day = ± \$4800). All student time is in service/on duty. Irrespective of purchasing these units, costs for our instructors to provide annual training for staff who would be assigned to aerial ladder and rescue equipped apparatus is still required. Training of our mechanical staff is included within the tendered prices by the bidders.

Also, in discussion with my counterpart for the City of Toronto, he has confirmed a long- term commitment to the Quint program with their first order just recently placed with Smeal for 6 – 75' Quints and 2 – 100' aerial platforms.

DISCUSSION

The acquisition of Quintuple (Quints) combination apparatus will demonstrate a new direction for the Surrey Fire Service. These Quints are very versatile, giving the department a pumper and ladder combination at approximately half the cost of purchasing separate pumper and ladder trucks; they also offer our City better utilization of the fire fighting work forces.

The Quint units are multi-functional, and when staffed at four persons are capable of providing immediate intervention at any emergency incident whether it is a medical/rescue, aerial ladder response or of a fire ground related emergency. All apparatus are equipped with a 75' aerial, fixed waterway with automatic nozzle, full complement of ground ladders, 500 imperial gallon water tank, 1500 GPM fire pump, 800' of 3 inch hose, 1000' – 4 inch hose, three pre-connect attack lines, 25 imperial gallon class A foam concentrate, Powerhawk tool and cutter (Jaws), smoke fan, power saw, 6000 watt generator, flood lights and medical equipment. These units are designed for proactive, offensive firefighting and emergency operations in a first responder capacity.

Quint apparatus have been utilized in the Fire Services throughout North America for decades and have proven their versatility in many cities. The Quint concept, however, has been slow in uptake because they deviate dramatically from the traditional model of delivery of first responders to an emergency incident. This is changing very quickly with some cities adopting a 100% Quint deployment philosophy. With Surrey's large geographic area, a smaller percentage within the fleet would be more practical with the first units being placed in the city's core areas where call volumes are the highest, and the demographics of the community support the need for this type of first responder service.

The concept and application of these units has been received with optimism in all of our surrounding jurisdictions, although in Vancouver there were labour issues raised on the re-assignment or reduction in the fire officer compliments on duty. In Surrey our officer compliment remains constant in as much as these units will replace three

first responding Pumpers currently in the fleet and all crew members will simply respond on a more versatile type of apparatus. The officer and crewmember assigned to the aerial ladder coming out of service will be assigned to another type of apparatus. In Surrey, staffing compliments have always been of concern, the implementation of this program does not compromise our current staffing levels in response to emergency incidents, in fact it provides the emergency response crew with greater flexibility. The appropriate initial assignment of resources to any given incident is always paramount and is pre-determined by our Computer Aided Dispatch program. The Officer in Charge of the initial response unit has the full and complete authority to request what additional resources he may require to mitigate the emergency in a manner that provides safety to the firefighters and the citizens. These resources are delivered in the form of additional apparatus staffed by either career or volunteer firefighters. The Quint concept has not been negatively received by work forces in other cities, except in cases where there has been a reduction in staff or officer ranks. In Surrey, we are not proposing a reduction in staff or officer compliments.

The placement of these units in strategic areas within our community will significantly reduce the need of two or more units being assigned to minor incidents because of the variety of specialized equipment carried on board each Quint. They will not, however, reduce the number of firefighters and apparatus required to assemble in order to deal safely and appropriately with a major or significant emergency event. Firefighter resources are a critical link to public and firefighter safety and the successful outcome of an emergency incident.

The acquisition of these three Quints will facilitate decommissioning of three pumper trucks, a 1973, 1979 and 1980 which will be disposed of through public auction; all three of these units are in need of a major repair. It will also allow us to place a 1983 Spartan 100' aerial ladder into the fleet as a reserve unit which will be utilized to replace a unit going out of service for mechanical repair or maintenance. We currently experience significant out of service periods for our aerial ladder trucks due to the stringent inspection program regulated by the Workers Compensation Board. This reserve aerial will also be available to respond to emergency incidents through the deployment of call back crews thereby affording the City an additional level of aerial ladder response capability at very little cost.

CONCLUSION:

To award Tender MS.2.1.00 to Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. for three – 75 ft. Aerial Ladder Quints in the amount of \$2,487.042 including all applicable taxes. The GM Finance has reviewed the financial component of this report and confirms that funding is provided within the current budget year.

J.G. Bale, C.F.O.

Fire Chief

JGB/IM/add