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Report 2021-168

Report Title: Ash Tree Felling – Tender Award

Committee Name: Public Works

Committee Meeting Date: Report was not considered by the Public Works Committee due to timing issues relating to the RFQ and the required work schedule

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Reviewed by: Mo Pannu
Director
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Glenn Dees
Director & Treasurer
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Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

Strategic Plan Priorities: ☒ Sustainable Growth

Recommendation

“Whereas the Request for Quotation (RFQ) 21-38 was issued to retain a contractor for the 2021 felling and subsequent clearing of Ash trees along County road allowance within the Municipality of Trent Hills; and

Whereas two (2) proponents submitted bids in response to this RFQ; and

Whereas the bid from 809592 Ontario Inc. o/a Parkside Landscaping & Contracting, in the amount of \$236,730.00 (plus tax) is the lowest bid meeting all specifications; and

Whereas the 2021 budgeted amount for felling and clearing is \$201,333.00 and \$30,000.00 for tree replacements; and

Whereas savings from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) program in previous years have been transferred to the Transportation Capital Reserve, in the amount of \$161,000.00;

Be It Resolved That that County Council award RFQ 21-38 to 809592 Ontario Inc. o/a Parkside Landscaping & Contracting, for the felling and subsequent clearing of Ash trees along County road allowances within the Municipality of Trent Hills; and

Further That County Council authorizes the use of Transportation Capital Reserve funds as sourced from available EAB savings to cover the short fall.”

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek County Council approval to award RFQ 21-38 to 809592 Ontario Inc. o/a Parkside Landscaping & Contracting, for the felling and subsequent clearing of Ash trees along County road allowances within the Municipality of Trent Hills.

Background

Northumberland County created an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan in the Council-approved Forest Services Strategic Plan (2016-2020). The purpose of this Plan was to map out how the County was going to deal with the effects of the EAB on Ash trees along road allowances.

The County began Ash tree removal in 2018, starting in the Township of Hamilton and the Town of Cobourg. In 2019 the Ash tree removals were completed throughout the Municipality of Port Hope and in 2020 both the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand and the Township of Cramahe were undertaken.

In addition to the costs associated with removing the Ash trees, the County committed to contributing funds to the Emerald Ash Borer Replacement Tree Program, in partnership with the Lower Trent Conservation. For every one tree that is taken down, 10 trees will be planted, with 12,000 trees per year for five years subsidized for Northumberland County residents. The amount funded, through this program, for 2021 was \$30,000.00.

Consultations

Not applicable

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The Ash trees found along County Roads are dead or dying due to the Emerald Ash Borer infecting the trunks and bark. The trees being removed are greater than 10 centimeters in diameter and their length is greater than or equal to their distance from the road surface.

Given that the Ash Trees are within striking distance of the road and the current health status of the tree is unknown, they are posing a risk to the public.

Discussion / Options

There were two (2) quotations received in response to RFQ 21-38, as follows:

Contractor	Bid Price (Excluding Taxes)
809592 Ontario Inc. o/a Parkside Landscaping & Contracting	\$236,730.00
Perry O'Grady Contracting	\$540,230.00

The County has currently completed the Ash tree removals in five (5) of the seven (7) municipalities, with Trent Hills and Brighton remaining.

In each of the previous years, where there has been savings, due to the lower volume of trees, and lower than anticipated bids. The County has put the money into an EAB reserve.

This year we are entering the Municipality of Trent Hills, which has over 1,200 Ash trees to be removed. This is the highest number of Ash trees in any other municipality in the County. Last year, the contractor removed approximately 688 trees within the Townships of Alnwick Haldimand & Cramahe combined.

This year, the total amount over budget can be attributed to the significant increase in the number of trees being removed and some pricing increases due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic.

Financial Impact

Low Bid Tender Amount	\$236,730.00
Non-recoverable HST	\$ 4,166.45
EAB Tree Replacement	\$ 30,000.00

Total Costs For 2021 **\$270,896.45**

Budget 2021 Tree Felling and Clearing	\$201,233.00
Budget 2021 Tree Replacement	\$ 30,000.00
Transportation Capital Reserve (EAB)	\$161,000.00

Total Funding Available **\$392,233.00**

Total Funding Available	\$392,233.00
Total Costs for 2021	\$270,896.45

Total Remaining in Reserve (EAB) **\$121,336.55**

Given that there is money in the Transportation Capital Reserve from prior years EAB savings, there will not be any negative financial impact.

Member Municipality Impacts

Not applicable

Conclusion / Outcomes

It is recommended by staff that County Council award RFQ 21-38 to 809592 Ontario Inc. o/a Parkside Landscaping & Contracting, for the felling and subsequent clearing of Ash trees along County road allowances within the Municipality of Trent Hills. It is further recommended that the additional funds necessary to make up the short fall between the approved budget amount are taken from the Transportation Capital Reserve as sourced from prior years EAB savings.

Attachments

N/A