



WHISTLER

REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: June 23, 2020

REPORT: 20-058

FROM: Infrastructure Services

FILE: Y00101

SUBJECT: HYDRO EXCAVATION TRUCK PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the contract for the purchase of one combination hydro excavation truck in the amount of \$565,491 with Vimar Equipment Ltd. in accordance with their tender proposal dated March 16, 2020.

REFERENCES

N/A

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this Report is to inform Council of the outcome of the tender process as well as the functions and benefits of the RMOW's combination hydro excavation truck and the need to replace the current vehicle. This Report also serves as a request for approval to proceed with the purchase of this unit with a total cost of \$565,491(exclusive of GST).

DISCUSSION

This procurement process includes the replacement of the existing, aging Utilities Department combination hydro excavation truck. This will replace one of the busiest pieces of day-to-day and emergency responding equipment in our entire RMOW Fleet. On average this unit functions approximately nine months of the year (it is not needed often in the winter) and within this time frame it operates approximately 1000 hours out of the possible 1,492 working hours. The purchase of this unit, upon approval from Council, is slated to be completed this year and be delivered to our Utilities Department for servicing our community.

This piece of equipment allows operators to use pressurized water to liquefy and loosen soil, which is then removed by the use of on-truck vacuum systems and hoses. It is an effective, efficient, and safe means of accurately locating and exposing underground utility lines.

The replacement of this unit is necessary to ensure we have timely response to infrastructure failures within the Municipality while completing this work with very limited risk of further damage to the infrastructure in place. It is also an emergency response unit to challenges in the water/sewer infrastructure grid within the Municipality. One local contractor has a similar hydro excavation truck, but their unit is often unavailable as there is high demand for this type of work and their truck sometimes works on projects outside of Whistler. This contractor-owned unit does not meet our emergency needs.

This truck will be introduced to our fleet with a 10-year anticipated life cycle of servicing our community.

COMMUNITY DEMAND FOR THIS SERVICE

There is an ongoing demand for the full-time and emergency use of a hydro excavation truck within the Resort Municipality of Whistler. This unit needs to be readily available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to respond to water/sewer emergencies as well as daily infrastructure maintenance issues. Due to the importance of the work, this unit needs to be functional and reliable for these responses. Our current unit is over 10 years old and is experiencing issues with reliability (see Budget section for more details).

Emergency calls for this unit are typically sewer back-up calls either in the municipal collection system or on private sewer lines, which require a quick response in order to minimize damage to the environment.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW HYDRO EXCAVATION TRUCK

The new truck is designed with a “tier four final” (low emission) engine and comes with a single power unit (as opposed to two motors on the current truck) to run the components of this unit. This design improves efficiency for fuel management in the power unit but also reduces maintenance costs as there is only one engine to maintain.

SAFETY

More stringent Worksafe BC (WSBC) regulations enacted in the last ten years regarding excavating, demand that alignment and depth of piping and conduit of all types; water, sewer, electrical, gas, communications etc. in the excavation area be confirmed by exposing by non-mechanical means prior to using a typical excavator. This truck serves as a hydro excavation tool that allows our crew to efficiently comply with this safety directive.

Regulatory Excerpt; Section 20.79 of the OHS Regulation states; Before excavating or drilling with power tools and equipment, the location of all underground utility services in the area must be accurately determined, and any danger to workers from those utility services must be controlled.

Sanitary sewer spills also require notification of the Provincial Emergency Program Spill Report System and can result in potential personal and corporate fine liabilities. Minimizing impact on the environment from these spills is important to minimize the liability, and the hydro excavation truck is the key piece of equipment when these issues occur.

Reducing the hazard of further damage to infrastructure and personal injury due to being able to excavate by non-mechanical means is important to our Utilities crew on a daily basis. Frost-protection in Whistler requires water and sewer lines to be buried almost two metres deep, but excavating this infrastructure by hand (the other non-mechanical means) is not practical due to the depth.

TENDER RESULTS

The Invitation to Tender for the replacement of the current combination hydro excavation truck was publicly advertised from February 25 to March 17, 2020.

RMOW staff communicated with suppliers of this type of equipment, including Rollins Machinery Ltd., WestVac Industrial Ltd., and Vimar Equipment Ltd, and issued a public Tender for the combination

hydro excavation truck. Vimar Equipment was the sole response to our tender with a bid response that met our criteria, including a price under our slated budget figure. Given this truck is a very specific design and the suppliers of this type of vehicle are very limited, each supplier represents a different style of set up. The requirements of our Utilities team and community resulted in only receiving one submission with many discussions with multiple suppliers throughout the tender.

Despite receiving only one bid, staff believe the price for this unit to be of good value because this supplier's bid response met all of our criteria outlined in the specifications developed jointly by our utilities team and garage services team with a focus on safety, efficiency and leading technology offered with a quoted price coming in below our forecasted budget figure.

WHISTLER 2020 ANALYSIS

W2020 Strategy	TOWARD Descriptions of success that resolution moves us toward	Comments
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whistler lives within its financial means The resort community effectively and efficiently balances its costs and expenditures The long-term consequences of decisions are carefully considered Common evaluation criteria are used to assess actions and spending priorities, ensuring that all resource allocations strategically move Whistler toward its vision 	The condition and age of our existing unit is at a point that replacing this unit is a good financial decision.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply is distributed reliably, equitably and affordably – and is managed proactively within the context of effective and efficient emergency preparedness Water supply, wastewater management and flood control infrastructure minimize energy requirements, and favour sustainably managed materials and resources Healthy streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands support thriving populations of fish, wildlife and aquatic invertebrate 	<p>This unit compliments all facets of the servicing and maintenance of our water/sewer infrastructure. It plays an important role in ensuring our Municipal infrastructure is sound, efficient and well managed in regards to emergency response to our infrastructure needs.</p> <p>In the instance of a backup or line failure; timely emergency response is paramount to ensuring the damage to the surrounding environment is limited as much as possible.</p>

The purchase of this hydro excavation truck does not move our community away from any of the adopted Whistler2020 Descriptions of Success.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

None.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The current budget is as follows for the replacement of the current hydro excavation truck:

BUDGET CODE NUMBER & NAME	BUDGET AMOUNT	TENDER PRICE
Y00101 – Fleet Replacement Project	\$600,000	\$565,491

Cost recovery for this unit, from work done for other internal departments as well as external recoveries from local contractors paying for the use of this unit, average approximately \$40,000 annually. Most of this is from the internal recoveries, but still represents a savings to the RMOW. This would be a significantly larger expense as the alternative would be hiring a contractor from the Lower Mainland with the associated travel costs and potential accommodation costs for larger jobs.

Our current unit is over 10 years old and has had substantial increasing maintenance costs as well as down-time associated with the truck being repaired in order to keep it in this “reliable responder” state;

2017 Maintenance Costs - \$21,561.08

2018 Maintenance Costs - \$21,227.36

2019 Maintenance Costs - \$35,011.53

The pre-2017 average maintenance costs were \$11,700 per year, and the new truck is expected to have significantly lower maintenance costs than what has been experience over the past three years. Keeping our current unit longer is expected to also rapidly decrease its potential re-sale price.

Leasing this vehicle from Vimar Equipment was also explored, but while it spread the expenditures over three years, the total price of the unit would increase by approximately \$30,000. Leasing provides tax efficiencies to for-profit companies, but does not provide that advantage for municipalities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

N/A

SUMMARY

Staff recommend Council approve the purchase of the combination hydro excavation truck from Vimar Equipment Ltd. in accordance with their tender proposal dated March 16, 2020. This unit is an important part of our response to water and sewer emergencies, as well as a key tool for safe excavation of buried utilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Klein
CENTRAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

for

James Hallisey, P. Eng.
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES