

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007**

**CIRCULATED REPORT
FOR AGENDA**

PAGES

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

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Award of Tender – Pumper Engine for Dashwood Fire Hall No. 2 (Meadowood).
(All Directors – Weighted Vote)



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CHAIR		BOARD	
<i>Board</i>		DATE:	June 18, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Mason
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: N. Avery
General Manager, Finance & Information Services

SUBJECT: Award of Tender for Firefighting Vehicle

PURPOSE:

To obtain Board endorsement to award a tender for the purchase of a firefighting vehicle for the Dashwood Fire Department – Meadowood Firehall.

BACKGROUND:

The Dashwood Fire Department has completed a tender call for the supply of a pumper engine which will be located at the new Meadowood Firehall. The budget estimate for the vehicle is \$325,000. Two responses were received as follows:

Hub Fire Engines	\$324,745 (\$347,478 including taxes)
Rocky Mountain Phoenix	\$310,118 (\$331,826 including taxes)

The department is recommending that the vehicle supplied by Hub Fire Engines be approved for a number of reasons. The Hub Fire Engine proposal most closely meets the overall tender specifications. The Phoenix vehicle provides a vehicle with a lower than expected front axle weight. The tender called for 14,000 lbs on the front axle and the Phoenix vehicle is supplied with a 12,000 lb. front axle. This results in the Phoenix vehicle having two different sizes of tires front and back, limiting the options for rotating the tires. The terrain over which the vehicle may be used includes steep slopes and the department considers the higher front axle weight to be a significantly better choice. The department already has a similar vehicle to that proposed by Hub Fire Engines which has advantages in terms of driver training and maintenance. Finally, the delivery dates vary greatly with the Hub Fire Engine being delivered about March 31, 2008 and the Phoenix vehicle being available closer to August, 2008. The department hopes to be operational no later than July 8, 2008, so the longer delivery time would pose a problem for the department.

Reference checks and site visits to view similar vehicles from each manufacturer have been completed in addition to the tender specification review. The department found the fit and finish and sturdiness of some of the equipment on the Phoenix vehicle to be of a lower than acceptable quality.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award the supply of a pumper engine to Hub Fire Engines at the quoted price of \$324,745 plus taxes.
2. Award the supply of a pumper engine to Rocky Mountain Phoenix for the quoted price of \$310,118 plus taxes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Alternative 1

Under this alternative the purchase price would be 5% or about \$15,650 higher than the lower tender however, the Hub Fire engine is evaluated as the best qualified offer. In terms of the budget estimate of \$325,000 for this purchase, while it is higher than the budget estimate there are few alternatives. With the approval of the supply, the department will consider minor adjustments to the equipment on the vehicle to help reduce the price and the overall project budget will be managed to account for this particular variance.

Alternative 2


Staff have outlined a number of concerns regarding the Phoenix proposal. Based on discussions with representatives of the fire department and confirmation of a thorough review of the proposals we believe that the difference in price is more than compensated for by the features and quality of the Hub Fire Engine vehicle and it represents the best value for the department.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS:


The Dashwood Fire Department in concert with Regional District staff recently conducted a tender for a pumper fire engine which will be located in the new Meadowood Firehall. The department and staff recommend awarding the tender to Hub Fire Engines for a quoted price of \$324,745 plus taxes. While a second proposal was received at a slightly lower price (less than 5% difference), that proposed vehicle does not meet the expected requirements in terms of front axle weight. This weakness contributes to other factors including the need for two different sets of tires (front and back tires are different sizes) and concern that on some of the steep slopes, the vehicle may not perform as needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the supply of a pumper engine for the Dashwood Fire Department – Meadowood Firehall be awarded to Hub Fire Engines for a maximum price of \$324,745 plus taxes.



Report Writer



C.A.O. Concurrence

COMMENTS: