



## REPORT

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**TO:** Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Martin Mills, Deputy Fire Chief

**DATE:** May 17, 2023

**REPORT NO.:** FIRE-2023-005

**SUBJECT:** Award of Contract for Fire Bunker Gear

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. FIRE-2023-005, dated May 17, 2023 for Award of Contract for Fire Bunker Gear be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the Contract for Fire Bunker Gear be awarded to A.J. Stone Company Limited, 62 Bradwick Drive, Vaughan ON L4K 1K8 for an annual upset limit of \$60,000 plus HST for a five (5) year contract with an option to renew for a further five (5) years;

AND FURTHER THAT the Senior Manager of Purchasing & Risk Management be authorized to issue a purchase order to A.J. Stone Company Limited, 62 Bradwick Drive, Vaughan ON L4K 1K8 for an annual upset limit of \$60,000 plus HST for a five year contract with options to renew for a further five years subject to satisfactory service and price negotiations.

### KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Fire Department replaces a percentage of the personal protective equipment used for firefighting (bunker gear) each year in addition to providing recruits new equipment through the capital budget approved by Council
- A bid was issued for the supply and delivery of bunker gear
- A.J. Stone Company Limited is being recommended to award the contract
- The Purchasing Policy requires that Request for Proposals over \$250,000 for the term of the contract be approved by Council

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

The Halton Hills Fire Department adheres to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards as best practices for the Town's firefighting needs, training, equipment purchases, etc. The Ministry of Labour for Ontario has adopted the NFPA standards as they relate to personal protective equipment. The standard (NFPA 1851) requires the retirement of bunker gear from emergency service operations after no longer than a 10-year life cycle. The bunker gear used by Halton Hills Fire is an integral piece of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters while undertaking fire and rescue activities. A complete set of bunker gear consists of a coat and pants that are each comprised of three (3) layers: an outer shell, a moisture barrier and a thermal barrier. Bunker gear is designed to protect firefighters from the extreme environments of fires as well as to provide protection from other hazards involved with emergency response.

The contract for the existing firefighting protective gear has expired. Town staff issued a bid for fire bunker gear for a five (5) year contract with an option to renew for an additional five (5) years. Halton Hills purchases approximately fifteen (15) sets of bunker gear each year. The bid included the requirement for the successful vendor to fit, manufacture, supply and deliver the bunker gear. Optional services included cleaning and inspecting the equipment as well. Nine (9) firms downloaded the bid from the Town's website through bidsandtenders.ca. The following four (4) firms submitted bids.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Location</b>
A.J. Stone Company Ltd.	Vaughan
Fire Equipment de Mexico S.A.de C.V.	Mexico City, Mexico
PPE Solutions	Pickering
Safedesign Apparel Ltd.	Toronto

Bids were evaluated based on Experience and Staffing Team Credentials and Services Offered, Technical Specifications, Delivery Lead Time and Fees. As part of the evaluation, each vendor provided two (2) sets of sample bunker gear that were sized to two (2) of the evaluators. Evaluators then ran through drills with the gear including, climbing stairs and ladders, crawling, walking, integration with their helmets, gloves and boots.

A.J. Stone Company Limited was determined to be the highest ranked bid. A.J. Stone provides this firefighting gear to over 130 municipalities. Staff are satisfied that A.J. Stone will provide a quality product and a high level of service.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to provide responsive, effective municipal government and strong leadership in the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services.

This report also identifies fiscal and corporate management as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

**INTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Purchasing staff facilitated the Request for Proposal process. Evaluations of the bid were conducted by Fire administration and fire personnel. Samples of the bunker gear were trialed in tests by firefighters. The Senior Manager of Purchasing & Risk Management is in agreement with the award.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report will be funded through an existing approved budget source. Firefighting gear is purchased through the Protective Clothing Replacement capital budget item 5200-07-0102.

Reviewed and approved by,

Simone Gourlay, Senior Manager of Purchasing and Risk Management

Jon Rehill, Commissioner & Chief of Fire Services

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer