



SUBJECT: Single source report – forestry chipper equipment
TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.
FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-06-22

Wards Affected: N/A

File Numbers: 465-12

Date to Committee: May 5, 2022

Date to Council: May 17, 2022

Recommendation:

Approve the single source purchase of one (1) 15 inch drum brush chipper and one (1) 9 inch disc brush chipper to Powertech Ontario, 55 Magnificent Road, Etobicoke Ontario, M8Z 4T4 at a purchase price of \$111,600.77 and \$74,637.22, respectively (including HST); and

Approve the standardization of brush chipper equipment to improve safety of operations as outlined in the roads, parks and forestry department report RPF-06-22.

PURPOSE:

In order to comply with Procurement By-law 04-2022, Section 22.1, Council approval is required for non-competitive procurement with a value greater than \$100,000. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed with a single source purchase agreement for one (1) 15-inch drum brush chipper to replace an existing unit and one (1) 9-inch disc brush chipper to support the three-person forestry crew that was approved through the 2021 operating budget (2021-076). In addition, staff are seeking approval to standardize the brush chippers used in the roads, parks and forestry department to improve safety of operations.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

In 2016, the City of Burlington awarded a competitive request for tender (RFT) with the intent of standardizing our forestry brush chipper fleet of four (4) units. This tender was to extend over 5 years replacing chipper units as they came due for replacement. The contract was terminated in 2019 as the supplier no longer carried the required Brush Bandit Chipper Line. Only three (3) brush chippers had been replaced at this time.

The remaining chipper is scheduled for replacement in 2022. In 2020, Council approved additional forestry staff to reduce the backlog of forestry work orders and an additional brush chipper was approved to support the operations.

The reason for the single source request is to standardize the brush chippers use in the Roads, Parks and Forestry department. The Bandit Brush Chipper has a proven design and has an excellent safety record. Our current Brush Bandit chippers have proven to be highly reliable, provide familiarity and are interchangeable between Forestry Staff providing consistent user experience to maximize safety. Familiarity with, and intuitive operation of, chipper controls is critical for operators during routine and emergency operations. Given the high-risk nature of forestry operations, any errors can result in significant injury including injury and/or fatalities.

Additionally, standardizing our chipper fleet will allow our mechanical staff to reduce maintenance costs by utilizing common parts. Training for Forestry staff will also see an increase in efficiency as staff will not have to train on different manufacturers products. This will lead to an overall increase in safety and operator efficiency.

Strategy/process

Staff consulted with Forestry Services to determine safety risks for utilizing several different types of equipment. It was concluded, through these discussions, that standardizing equipment in order that safety features and emergency stop locations are in the same positions fleet wide, would mitigate the risk of injury to Forestry staff while operating equipment.

The Ministry of Labor outlines requirements for Safety Around Heavy Equipment. Under the Employer requirements it is stated that “Employers must ensure equipment is operated as per manufacturer’s instructions.” Having multiple manufacturers can lead to confusion when switching between different equipment. Additional studies on Heavy Equipment Standardization have also concluded that variation creates safety risks and standardization is critical in risk reduction.

Options Considered

In lieu of standardizing equipment, routine recurrent training would be required on multiple pieces of equipment from different manufacturers to understand differences and safety features.

Financial Matters:

This purchase will support ongoing Forestry operations as well as the three-person Forestry crew that was approved as part of the 2021 Operating budget (2021-076). This business case approval included a capital portion of \$520,000 (EN0023) for new vehicles and equipment, including a new chipper unit. The replacement of the existing chipper unit is funded from previously approved capital funding from the Vehicle Depreciation Reserve Fund.

Total Financial Impact

The total cost of the purchase of one (1) 15-inch drum brush chipper will be \$100,499.94 and one (1) 9 inch disc brush chipper will be \$67,213.13 (including HST).

Source of Funding

The source of funding for this equipment is capital order VR0127 for the 9-inch disc brush chipper and EN0023 for the 15-inch drum brush chipper.

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable.

Climate Implications

Both chippers come with Kohler Tier 4 engines with advanced fuel injection systems that significantly reduces fuel consumption. The 15-inch drum chipper is also designed to run at lower RPMS (Rotations Per Minute) thus reducing fuel consumption and wear

Conclusion:

Fleet Services, in consultation with Procurement Services and Forestry Services, recommend that Council approve the single source award to Powertech Ontario, as well as approve the standardization of brush chippers to the Bandit brand.

Respectfully submitted,

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Manager of Fleet Services

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Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.