TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION
REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: April 24, 2013

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION AMENDMENT – COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (CIS) CELLULAR SERVICES

ACTION ITEM

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board authorize an amendment to the contract with Bell Mobility (Bell) for the provision of Communications Information System (CIS) Cellular Services in the amount of $414,000 resulting in a revised total upset limit amount of $1,775,000.

FUNDING

Sufficient funds have been included in the 2013 TTC operating budget to fund this requirement.

BACKGROUND

The CIS is a life safety system that provides data and voice communications between buses, streetcars, and divisional control offices including TTC's Transit Control. The CIS is primarily used as a route management, emergency communications and response co-ordination tool. The majority of CIS data and voice communications are transmitted on an Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radio system maintained by internal TTC resources. When the UHF system or other critical portions of CIS are unavailable due to system loading or other issues (failure or busy), emergency voice and limited data communications are transmitted on a cellular network.

Bell had provided the TTC with cellular network services from 1988 to 2008, however, this service was provided on Bell's analogue cellular network and in 2004 Bell notified the TTC the analogue network would be decommissioned in 2008 (as the analogue technology was antiquated in comparison to newer digital technology). The TTC's CIS equipment at that time was also based on analogue technology and required replacement or modification in order to function on a non-analogue network.

As attempts at finding an external vendor to provide an alternative solution to the analogue network that would integrate with the existing CIS were unsuccessful, in 2005 staff developed an in-house solution based on Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) technology (digital technology) to replace the TTC's analogue network. This solution allowed the CIS to operate on the existing Bell network, and with modifications, other digital networks. To implement the solution TTC procured hardware necessary for the conversion from an analogue to a digital network (i.e. CDMA modems, CDMA interface boards and cables). The hardware vendor was required to work with

Bell to retrofit the CDMA modems on Bell's digital cellular network, as Bell was the current provider for the existing CIS cellular communications system.

At its meeting of December 17, 2008, the Board approved entering into a sole source contract for a 5 year term with Bell.

DISCUSSION

The monthly consumption of CIS cellular voice services has been running ahead of the original 2008 forecast. As a result of the foregoing, insufficient funds remain on the contract and approval of this amendment will provide the needed funding to maintain the existing CIS service until the current expiry date of the contract (December 16, 2013). Staff is currently reviewing alternatives for competitive bidding at the expiry of this Contract.

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

Original Total Upset Limit Amount:	$1,361,000.00
Previous amendments:	Nil
Amount this Amendment:	$414,000.00

JUSTIFICATION

Approval of this report will provide sufficient funds until the expiry of this Contract.

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