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CONTRACT AWARD FOR ADVANCED CARE PARAMEDIC TRAINING

The Community and Health Services Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report dated September 15, 2009, from the Commissioner of Community and Health Services.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the award of RFP 09-46 to Durham College for the delivery of Advanced Care Paramedic training for Emergency Medical Services staff in the Community and Health Services Department, in the amount of \$702,000, exclusive of applicable taxes.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Health Services be authorized to execute an agreement with Durham College for the delivery of Advanced Care Paramedic training for York Region Emergency Medical Services staff, subject to review by Legal Services.

2. PURPOSE

This report requests Council's approval to award RFP 09-46 to Durham College for the delivery of Advanced Care Paramedic training for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff in the Community and Health Services Department, in the amount of \$702,000, plus applicable taxes. It also seeks approval for the Commissioner of Community and Health Services to execute an agreement with Durham College for the delivery of Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) training to enhance the availability of Advanced Care Paramedic delivery to the residents of York Region.

3. BACKGROUND

Advanced Care Paramedic Training

Since the downloading of emergency medical services to the Region in 2000, there has been a shared vision of both Council and EMS staff to provide advanced care to the residents of York Region. Advanced care has been made possible through ongoing upgrade and training of EMS staff. Due to the complexities and costs associated with designing and maintaining an accredited training program, an outside vendor has been used to deliver the program. This process has proven to be very cost effective.

An Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) designation is required for paramedics to be able to perform emergency services such as:

- Administering intravenous (IV) fluids.
- Intubating persons not breathing.
- Administering clot dissolving medications (used in our leading edge international study- Strategic Reperfusion Early After Myocardial Infarction (STREAM)).
- Staffing the Strategic Response Unit.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In August of 2009, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for the delivery of Advanced Care Paramedic training for York Region EMS.

Seven training institutions obtained a copy of the criteria for the RFP but only one training institution, Durham College, submitted a proposal. Durham College has delivered training to York Region EMS since 2003.

After review of the submission, it was determined that Durham College met mandatory program and financial requirements. The contract allows for up to 36 staff to be trained to the Advanced Care Paramedic level at a cost of \$19,500 per student for a total cost of \$702,000 plus applicable taxes for the duration of a three-year contract.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A three-year contract will allow fixed pricing

A three-year contract with Durham College will allow the Region to have fixed pricing for the duration of the contract. Durham College has received a status change for their Paramedic program from the Ministry of Universities and Colleges. This status change allows them to receive subsidies from the Ministry. As a result, Durham College provided a 40% reduction in cost per capita funding in the last year of our previous contract with them. The cost per student for this new contract will be \$19,500 which is less than the cost of \$25,000 per student that other programs would be charging. The total cost for a three-year contract with Durham College for ACP training is \$702,000 plus applicable taxes, which requires Council approval.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

Ongoing ACP training will allow for enhanced coverage to the residents of York Region.

7. CONCLUSION

The establishment of a contract with Durham College for ACP training will ensure York Region EMS staff receive, high quality, cost effective training to enhance the availability of ACP delivery to the residents of York Region.

For more information on this report, please contact Norm Barrette, General Manager, Emergency Medical Services at Ext. 4709.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.