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**Subject:** Network Equipment Purchase

**Report to:** Thorold City Council

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## Recommendations

1. That Council **AWARD** purchase of computer networking equipment to Lanworks Inc. in the amount of \$105,175 +HST.
2. That Council **APPROVE** the usage of the remaining budget balances on related project items subject to adherence of the procurement policy.

## Key Facts

- The City has a new facility under construction at 8 Carleton St. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor
- The City has a new Fire Station and Emergency Operations Center facility nearing construction completion
- The City is working to improve network system resiliency for disaster scenarios
- Redundant Data Center, Fire Station Construction, and 8 Carleton St. projects are included in the approved 2024 Capital Budget
- RFP for this equipment was issued on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and closed on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Budgetary Status

- Capital costs of \$15,555 +HST for Fire Station costs to be covered by related construction budget
- Capital costs of \$15,555 +HST for 8 Carleton St. costs to be covered by related construction budget
- Capital costs of \$50,389 +HST for Redundant Data Center costs to be covered by project budget of \$100,000
- Pre-paid costs for future year's operating costs to be included in upcoming operating budgets of \$8,900/yr +HST

## Analysis

The City has a few capital projects in the 2024 year that require the purchase of additional networking equipment. The construction projects taking place at 8 Carleton

St. and the new Fire Station both require new network switches to be purchased for them in order to accommodate the number of network ports available in these facilities for the purpose of connecting network devices. These devices include staff workstations, wireless access points, digital signage displays, telephones, security cameras, etc. In addition to this, City Council approved the Redundant Data Center project, which is intended to improve the resiliency of the City's computer systems to improve business continuity in any kind of disaster scenario. This project also includes network switches and firewall devices.

Since the City had a few projects requiring the purchase of similar and related network equipment RFP 2024-COMP-01 was prepared and released on the City's bidding portal, Biddingo, on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to solicit bids for this equipment to combine these purchases in order to achieve higher levels of discounting due to bulk purchase. While the RFP was open to any vendor, the scope of the RFP was limited to equipment compatible with existing City network infrastructure, which is manufactured by Juniper Networks.

The RFP closed on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A single bid was received, which was from Lanworks Inc. Several options were presented in the RFP response for different equipment choices as well as different support contract lengths. City staff have considered those options for performance, expected service life, growth opportunity, and cost. The selected equipment, with included 3 year support agreement, provides a balance of these items while remaining in budget.

### **Impact on the Environment, Climate Change**

There are no known environmental or climate change related impacts to this Report.

### **Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- Service Delivery Excellence
  - Service Modernization

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