

TO: CITY MANAGER 2000 January 07

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR THE CITY'S THIN CLIENT INITIATIVE

PURPOSE: To obtain Council approval to award a purchase order for the supply and installation of thin client computer requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a purchase order be awarded to Data General (Canada) Inc. for the supply and installation of thin client computer requirements for a total cost of \$324,786.00

REPORT

Annually, departmental budgets include funds for the purchase and replacement of Personal Computers (PCs). With the advance of technology some PCs can now be replaced with "thin clients" which are terminals with most of their processing capability located on a central computer system server. In the 1999 Strategic Plan for Information Services, the City identified the move to thin clients, for selected staff, in order to reduce costs associated with maintenance and trouble shooting of desk top PCs. Due to the complexity of some staff computer related functions thin clients are not appropriate for all desk tops.

This report covers seventy thin clients to replace the VAX terminals in the tax, licence, payroll and building divisions. This update is another step in our progress toward becoming independent from the VAX computers and standardizing on one operating system. This will then allow a wider range of more cost effective software to be considered for the functions of the four divisions and provide the ability to interface with Provincial initiatives such as "One Stop Business Registration".

In response to our Request for Proposals the five companies listed below submitted detailed proposals:

- Microserve Business Computer Services
- Data General (Canada) Inc.
- Compaq Canada Inc.
- IBM Canada Inc.
- Pioneer Standard Canada

The total costs quoted ranged from \$324,786.00 to \$355,750.00, inclusive of taxes. The low bid, from Data General (Canada) Inc., meets all of the City's specifications and requirements. Staff are familiar with Data General's products and capabilities and are confident the products offered will meet our needs.

Sufficient Equipment Replacement Reserves are available to finance this acquisition which will be included in the 2000 Annual Capital Budget. It was originally intended to lease the subject thin client computer requirements, however, further analysis has determined that it would be more cost effective to capitalize these expenditures and to establish a thin client replacement reserve, with an annual charge to operations based on the useful life of each systems component.

The Chief Information Officer concurs with this recommendation.


for Rick Earle
DIRECTOR FINANCE

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cc. Chief Information Officer