The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to award an RFP for the purchase of one Brush Chipper. Council approval is required as staff is not recommending the lowest priced unit for purchase. This is a direct replacement for a brush chipper that has fulfilled lifecycle expectations.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the RFP F31-CS-FL-2010-06 for the purchase of one Brush Chipper be awarded to Vermeer Canada Inc. for the purchase price of $38,420 plus applicable taxes.

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commissioner</th>
<th>Consultation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Beach, Sustainability &amp; Growth</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Willing, Community Development Services</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denis Leger, Corporate Services</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Keech, President &amp; CEO, Utilities Kingston</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(N/R indicates consultation not required)
OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:
The Fleet Services Division issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on behalf of the Public Works Department for the purchase of one brush chipper.

The response to the RFP is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Purchase Price (excluding applicable tax)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vermeer Canada Inc. (Vermeer Chipper)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nortrax (Bandit Chipper)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>33,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan Fyfe Equipment Ltd. (Carlton Chipper)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Small Engines (Bearcat Chipper)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41,810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparisons between the two units were reviewed by staff using the following criteria:

- Purchase Price
- Fuel Economy and GHG Emissions
- Specification Compliant.
- Vehicle Safety Rating

When staff reviewed the proposals, the above-noted criteria was considered which included company profile as well as the ability to provide parts, service and warranty representation for the proposed product. This RFP took into consideration all aspects of the Green Fleet Policy.

Two of the vendors, namely Allen Fyfe Equipment Ltd. and Canadian Small Engines, were eliminated as they did not meet the requested specifications for a drum style cutting system. These vendors proposed a disc type which is more susceptible to jamming up as brush is fed into the machine, as well as being more costly and maintenance-intensive when cutting blade replacements are required.

The decision was left between the Vermeer and the Nortrax machines. Both units were brought in by the Public Works Forestry Division for live demonstrations. Staff determined that the Vermeer chipper outperformed the Nortrax chipper in the areas of operator safety features, productivity, maintenance cost and ease of transport.

The Vermeer unit uses a patented lower feed stop bar that is strategically located to make it possible for the operator’s leg to strike the bar and shut off the feed either intentionally or automatically in emergency situations. The Nortrax machine uses a remote footpad similar to what was used on a sewing machine to engage and disengage power to the unit. The operators found this system to be counterproductive as one operator is required to remain standing on the remote device during operation limiting their mobility to work from a brush pile to the feed ramp.

The Nontrax unit uses a conventional automotive clutch system to engage and disengage the engine to the high-speed cutter assembly. The Vermeer machine uses a 5”-wide belt system with four flutes to accomplish this function. Both methods are a maintenance item susceptible to wear over time. The estimated cost of a clutch replacement is $5000 versus the belt at $400.
The Vermeer unit has an adjustable trailer tongue that extends 36” when being transported to the site and fully retracts when stored. The advantage over the Nortax submission is that the unit is clearer to the vision of the operator when coupled behind the truck and because it is stanced back farther from the trailer ball, it is much easier to back up into the work area.

Although the feeling is that the fuel capacity of both units would be very similar as they are the same tier three rated 85Hp capacity motors, there are no documents to support that. The consumption figures differed in engine speed and workload and could not be accurately compared.

Although the price of the Vermeer unit is $4,500 more that the competitors submission, the Works Department feels it is the best overall machine for the required task.

GREEN FLEET POLICY:
This purchase supports the recommendations within the Green Fleet Policy by ensuring that maintenance requirements, operator ease of use and ergonomic are considered.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:
By-law 2000-134, a By-law to Establish Purchasing Policies and Procedures for the City of Kingston
Green Fleet Policy for the City of Kingston

NOTICE PROVISIONS:
N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:
Ontarians with Disabilities Act

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:
This purchase is funded from the department budget as approved by Council.

CONTACTS:
Damon Wells, Director, Public Works 613- 546-4291, Ext. 2313

OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:
N/A

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:
N/A