



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-484

From: Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager

Date: March 21, 2024

Subject: TELUS Contract Extension

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board approve the extension to the 'Cellular Phone Services' TELUS Communications contract to provide services to a maximum cost of \$95,000 (excluding taxes), for an additional two-year term commencing July 1, 2024; and further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the PRRD.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On June 10, 2021, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED

That the Regional Board award RFP 04-2021, 'Cellular Phone Services', to TELUS Communications Inc., at a cost of \$117,720 (excluding taxes) over a 3-year period starting July 1, 2021; further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement.

On March 25, 2021, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) issued Request for Proposal 04-2021 for qualified telecommunication companies to provide cellular services for staff smartphones, landfill/transfer station cellular connectivity, and water station connectivity. PRRD also relies on cellular for fleet vehicle tracking and maintenance monitoring. TELUS Communications was the successful proponent.

The original Request for Proposal (RFP) conditions were for an initial three-year term with the option of a two-year term extension. To enact the renewal term option, notice must be provided no less than 90 days in advance to the contractor. The initial three-year term expires June 30, 2024.

PRRD is planning to modernize its infrastructure by replacing mobile-only transfer stations, landfills, and some sewer locations with Starlink technology. This initiative is driven by the desire to enhance operational speed, reliability, and serviceability, through this enhancement. Switching Internet mobility providers at this time would create substantial challenges, particularly concerning IP address management and VPN compatibility with the existing wireless modem infrastructure. Extending the TELUS mobility contract will afford staff the necessary time and resources to effectively integrate Starlink technology across operations, ensuring minimal disruption during the transition period.

TELUS has been effectively servicing mobility needs throughout the contract term.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The 2024 budget has sufficient funds to cover the costs. Total costs are based on a per-device basis, which have increased over the past three years.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

TELUS Communications will be notified of the decision.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.