

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

23 APRIL 2008

Air Support Program

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive this report.

SYNOPSIS

This report identifies two impending issues regarding the Air Support program requiring the Board's attention.

The five year lease with Toronto Airways at the Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport for office and hangar space will expire on August 31, 2008. There is an option to renew the lease provided the Board communicates in writing three months prior to the end of the term. Late in 2007, staff were contacted by Toronto Airways to advise that the space currently occupied by York Regional Police will not be available and discussions are underway to find alternative space at the Buttonville airport.

The three year contract with National Helicopter for the provision of pilots and service maintenance for AIR2 will come to an end on July 31, 2008. There is an opportunity to extend the contract for one additional 2-year period provided National Helicopters provides the Board with written notice of its intent to exercise this option on or before May 1, 2008. Upon receipt of such notice, the Board is required to respond to National in writing by no later than May 31, 2008.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are not known at this time.

BACKGROUND

The General Manager at the Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport has been in contact with York Regional Police to advise that the space currently occupied by York Regional Police is required for another corporate client. As a result, there are discussions about securing suitable hangar and office space along with potential partnerships with the RCMP, OPP and Toronto Police Service. These discussions will continue until such time as York Regional Police has negotiated the best possible arrangement for hangar and office space prior to the expiration of the current agreement.

The current lease agreement for the hangar and office space with Toronto Airways Limited at the Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport took effect on August 15, 2003. The agreement runs for a period of 5 years and it is due to expire on August 31, 2008.

Schedule "E" of the contract reads:

The Landlord will, upon the written request of the Tenant mailed by prepaid registered post or delivered to the Landlord not later than three (3) months before the expiration of the initial Term, grant to the Tenant the right to renew the Term of this lease for a further period of five (5) years commencing upon the expiration of the initial Term.

On July 18, 2005, the Board entered into an agreement with National Helicopters Incorporated for the provision of pilots and service maintenance for AIR2 based on 900 contracted flying hours per year. This agreement with the selected service provider was recommended to the Police Services Board in a report dated June 29, 2005 following a formal request for proposal process.

Section 3.2 of that agreement states:

The term of this Agreement may be extended on mutual consent of the parties for one (1) additional two (2) year period. National shall provide the Board with written notice of its intent to exercise this option on or before May 1, 2008, and the Board shall respond to National in writing by no later than May 31, 2008. If the parties agree to extend the term of this Agreement, they will execute a formal extension forthwith after the exchange of written notices.

In order to prepare for the discussion with National Helicopters, staff has reviewed the current contract, consulted with York Region Legal and also arranged for an independent audit of the maintenance records and operating practices of the service provider. The intent, subject to Board approval, is to enter into negotiations with National Helicopters Incorporated with a view to securing the best possible terms for the two-year extension period prior to July 31, 2008.

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.
Chief of Police

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