

Report

Date January 15, 2025
Subject Bear-resistant carts

File:

PURPOSE

To revisit the supplier for bear-resistant carts required for the new automated curbside collection program commencing in June 2025.

BACKGROUND

In July 2024, Council approved supplying and delivering garbage and organics carts for the new automated curbside collection project to IPL North America Inc.

In addition, Council directed staff to negotiate with Toter LLC (Toter) to supply and deliver five hundred 120L and 240L bear-resistant carts.

DISCUSSION

In the three proposals received in May 2024 for the supply of carts, only Toter had a suitable option for bear-resistant carts. Further investigation by staff, following the approval for Toter bear carts, identified that the mechanism that locks the lid is manual and, therefore, not suitable for an automated collection system. For this reason, staff have investigated other cart manufacturers that have automated or gravity type locks.

The Rehrig Pacific Company (Rehrig) offers a 120L and 240L bear-resistant cart with a gravity lock system. These carts are certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee located in Washington State. The cost for 500 bear-resistant carts is approximately \$200 each, totalling around \$95,000, plus shipping. This is comparable to the costs proposed by Toter. The amount has been allocated in the 2025 budget, so no additional funds are needed. The carts will have a North Cowichan logo similar to the regular carts. Rehrig is a reputable company in the industry, with the Cowichan Valley Regional District and City of Courtenay already using their carts. A resident who requests a bear-resistant cart will have an increased annual garbage fee of \$30 and \$40 per cart for the 120L and 240L sizes, respectively.

OPTIONS

1. (Recommended Option)

THAT Council

- (1) Direct staff to suspend the purchase of bear-resistant carts from Toter LLC; and,
- (2) Direct staff to negotiate with Rehrig Pacific Company to supply and deliver five hundred 120L and 240L bear-resistant carts.

IMPLICATIONS

Staff have determined that the only certified bear-resistant cart applicable for use with an automated collection system is the Rehrig cart; therefore, a procurement process for this purchase is not warranted. The Rehrig Pacific Company is also a part of the Canoe Procurement Group of Canada, ensuring a competitive cart price.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council

- (1) Direct staff to suspend the purchase of bear-resistant carts from Toter LLC; and,
- (2) Direct staff to negotiate with Rehrig Pacific Company to supply and deliver five hundred 120L and 240L bear-resistant carts.

Report prepared by:



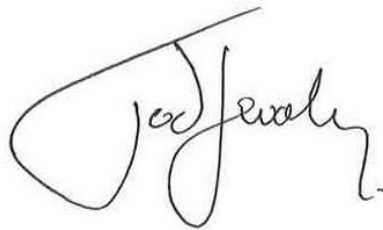
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