

STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



Report to:	Mayor and Council Members	Priority:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Low
Submitted by:	Melanie Chatten Coordinator, Geographic Information Systems mchatten@cobourg.ca Laurie Wills Director, Public Works lwills@cobourg.ca	Meeting Type: Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>	
Meeting Date:	March 29, 2021		
Report No.:	Public Works-029-21		
Submit comments to Council			

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a three (3) year Small Business Enterprise Agreement with Esri Canada for the Town of Cobourg's GIS platform, ArcGIS.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

NA

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NA

3. PURPOSE

To seek delegation of authority to execute a three (3) year enterprise agreement (EA) for the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) platform, ArcGIS.

4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

Esri's ArcGIS suite was chosen as the Town of Cobourg's GIS platform through the strategic and implementation plans of 2003-2004.

Between 2003 and 2014 the Town gradually acquired a growing list of individual licenses for individual components of the suite from desktop GIS and analysis extensions to server licenses and moving from basic towards advanced licenses. With each component purchase, further maintenance dollars were added to each

subsequent year's operating budget. Keeping current on maintenance fees is important to maintain access to support, new versions and software and security patches.

5. BACKGROUND

In 2014 the GIS Department sought and gained approval to shift from licensing individual components of the platform to the Small Government Enterprise Agreement (EA) primarily because we were on the cusp of needing to advance the main desktop license and purchase a second server license. Besides the purchase costs of these components, the additional maintenance costs versus the EA cost when weighted against the limitations we faced with the technology in continuing to work with individual components versus the freedom and flexibility afforded us with an EA, made this a logical time to progress in our development of a Corporate Enterprise GIS.

The rise of Esri's cloud platform (ArcGIS Online) after we adopted the EA has dramatically increased the value for dollar of the EA as the functionality was added at no additional cost. We now have access to hundreds of out of the box solutions and templates and an array of web and field applications that we use every day from Web AppBuilder web maps in the office to Collector in the field to Survey123 and Operations dashboard for COVID-19 staff screening and monitoring.

6. ANALYSIS

The reason we have the ability to deploy fast solutions with short notice, such as the resources being used for COVID-19 screening, is due to the flexibility afforded us through the EA.

GIS is fast paced, ever changing technology and Esri is a world leader in the field, investing more than 30% of their annual revenue into research and development, largely for products that get added to their core software suite. As EA subscribers, the Town has access to these items as they are released. Importantly, as the technology grows so to do the offerings in the EA as evidenced by the development and inclusion of ArcGIS Online.

The Esri Small Government EA offers unique capabilities and flexible licensing for applying location-based analytics to our business practices. We gain greater insights by using contextual tools to visualize and analyze our data and collaborate by sharing information in maps, apps, dashboards and reports. Our investment in ArcGIS unlocks the power of location and with it our decision making is smarter and our work is more efficient.

We have complex integrations embedded in our operations that depend on ArcGIS, with our partner platform Cityworks. Cityworks is used by staff in Parks, Public Works, Building, Planning and Legislative Services. There are public integrations as well for Report It, which creates service requests in Cityworks based on public input, as well as our Survey123 Streetlight outage reporting form, also found on the Report It web page.

Further, our local partners at Lakefront Utilities, Northumberland County and the lower tier municipalities in Northumberland use the ArcGIS platform as well making collaboration and data sharing very easy.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

The cost of the EA is approved in the GIS Department Operating Budget.

To describe the cost savings that the EA affords the Town, consider the following: to maintain the current deployment of software in 2021 outside of the EA would cost \$79,000/year versus the EA cost of \$32,680. Additionally, if the Town were to leave the EA, the individual components that would have to be purchased to keep up with current operations would amount to \$192,000 in the first year. Each new component needed as time goes by would be an additional cost, whereas in the EA, the desktop and server components are unlimited and allow for scalable growth.

8. CONCLUSION

THAT Council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a three (3) year Small Business Enterprise Agreement with Esri Canada for the Town of Cobourg's GIS platform, ArcGIS

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Agreement for GIS Platform, ArcGIS - Public Works-029-21.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 23, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 23, 2021 - 2:36 PM