

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

#### OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information re. sourcing of supplier for the City's GIS project

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** the City of Elliot Lake has secured funding to build and launch a complete GIS system with a September 2022 deadline and

**WHEREAS** the project is large in scope and will take significant time to implement and

**WHEREAS** the SSM Innovation Centre / Acorn is a non profit corporation ideally suited and experienced with launching and managing GIS data and programs in Northern Ontario

**WHEREAS** the City's procurement policy bylaw allows for single sourcing when market conditions warrant

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the report of the Director of Information Technology dated November 10, 2021 be received;

**AND THAT** Council approve the use of the Negotiation Method (section G) of the city's procurement policy to sole source the GIS solution project to Acorn Information Solutions in the amount of \$257,961.11

**AND THAT** the required net municipal funds of \$90,286.39 be taken from the Economic Development Reserve (\$40,407) and the IT reserve (\$49,879.39)



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Robyn Scott  
Director of Information Technology



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Daniel Gagnon  
Chief Administrative Officer

## BACKGROUND

As defined, a GIS is a geographic information system (GIS) is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking, and displaying data related to positions on Earth's surface. GIS can show many different kinds of data on one map, such as streets, buildings, and vegetation. This enables people to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships.

Further to Council's March 22, 2021 approval of an application to the Municipal Modernization Grant and the approval on October 25<sup>th</sup> to enter into a transfer payment agreement with the Province, the next step is the selection of a supplier of services to create a GIS system. The grant offers 65% grant monies toward the project. The amount quoted by Acorn Information Solutions (a division of the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Center) is \$ 257,961.11. Based on the grant-funding amount, this would result in a cost to the municipality of \$90,286.39. An amount of \$40,704 was budgeted in 2020 from the Economic Development Reserve (which was never used).

## ANALYSIS

The decision to sole source the implementation of a GIS service to Acorn Information Solutions is based on several factors:

### Location:

Acorn is the only company with the capability to work on a project of this scope within Northern Ontario. Their geographic proximity serves as a great advantage in the implementation of this type of system.

### Non-profit:

Acorn Information Solutions (AIS) is a division of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC). SSMIC is a non-profit organization that exists to make starting or growing a business in the science and technology sector easier. They find solutions for existing businesses in a range of sectors from the agri-food sector to GIS. They support projects that foster effective partnerships, encourage sustainability and develop talent in and for the Algoma region.

### They work with existing value partners:

Through the implementation of this service, acorn will work with existing and trusted City of Elliot Lake partners such as Tulloch Engineering.



### Timing:

The implementation of a GIS system is very complex and data heavy. As the final report and invoices are due by September 30, 2022, the requirement to move ahead quickly with this project is critical. Acorn is poised and ready to handle the workflow for the City within this timeframe.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The financial impact is \$90,286.39. \$40,407 has been budgeted from the Ec Dev Reserve, therefore requiring \$49,879.39 to be sourced from another reserve (suggestion IT reserve).

### **LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

The recommendation aligns with the strategic goal of adopting a GIS System.

### **SUMMARY**

Staff is recommending that Council approve the sourcing of the GIS project to Acorn Information Solutions.

