16.

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Check Point Firewall Upgrade – Award of Contract

Date:	November 16, 2020
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board approval to enter into an agreement with Access 2 Networks for software, hardware and professional services to support the Check Point Firewall Upgrade solution at TPL.

The term of the contract is for approximately five years and the total capital and operating cost over the period is estimated at $1,502,500, excluding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

Access 2 Networks submitted the only qualified bid that met all TPL requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. enters into a contract with Access 2 Networks for software, hardware and professional services to support the Check Point Firewall Upgrade solution at TPL for approximately five years starting in November 2020, with a total estimated value of $1,502,500, excluding Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), comprised of the following:

    a. total capital costs over the period of $92,500; and

    b. total operating costs over the period of $1,410,000.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The total value of the award over the approximate five-year term is estimated at $1,502,500, excluding HST, and the annual costs are shown in the following table.

Check Point Firewall Upgrade and On-Going Support

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Hardware/Software Replacement and Professions Services Implementation Support	92,500					92,500
Total Capital	**92,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**92,500**
Annual Hardware/Software Maintenance	244,000	244,000	244,000	244,000	244,000	1,220,000
Professional Services for On-going Support & Maintenance		47,500	47,500	47,500	47,500	190,000
Total Operating	**244,000**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**1,410,000**
Total Award	**336,500**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**291,500**	**1,502,500**

The total capital costs of $92,500 will be funded by the approved multi-year Technology Asset Management Program (TAMP) capital budget in 2020.

Year 2 of the contract has the full annual operating cost totalling $291,500 and this is similar to the cost of the current contract, which is funded by the operating budget.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

TPL's Strategic Plan (2020-2024): Vital to Toronto – Building Success, Resilience and Well-Being for our City includes *expanding access to technology and digital literacy training* as one of five priorities. Torontonians need access to current and emerging technology to fully participate in the digital world yet the high cost of technology and the Internet are barriers to access. TPL is well positioned to take a leading role in advancing digital inclusion and digital literacy by offering access to desktops and laptops, printing, scanning, photocopying and Wi-Fi in its network of 100 branches to advance the outcome that all residents have access to technology.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan has embedded the City's equity lens into the plan. This lens supports understanding and addressing of barriers to Toronto Public Library services by equity-seeking groups and vulnerable populations in the City of Toronto to advance equitable outcomes for all, and address the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action.

Access to the Internet and a computing device is a requirement for daily life. A 2019 study Bridge: Technology Access in Public Libraries: Outcomes and Impacts outlines the importance of library technology, including computer devices and access to the Internet in addressing a fundamental barrier to access and advancing digital inclusion and digital literacy for all.

BACKGROUND

TPL implemented Check Point Firewall protection in 2000. In 2013, TPL issued a Request for Quotation (TPL RFQ 020-2013) for a maintenance contract to support the Check Point Firewall Upgrade and a one-year contract was awarded to Conexsys Communications Limited with a value of $240,186.15, excluding HST. Subsequent to this, the annual maintenance agreements for Check Point Firewall was awarded each year after obtaining competitive quotes. TPL's existing Check Point maintenance contract expires on December 9, 2020 and as a result a new contract is required that includes an upgrade to the system.

COMMENTS

TPL issued a Request for Proposal (TPL RFP 005-2020) for a Check Point Firewall Upgrade solution in September 2020 and received responses from two vendors. One vendor was eliminated due to failure to meet mandatory requirement of proponent appliance support level certification.

Access 2 Networks was the successful vendor and met all TPL requirements. As part of this new contract, Access 2 Networks will migrate and upgrade the Check Point Firewall appliances. Access 2 Networks will also assist in architecture redesign of the firewall appliance with virtualization of the firewall appliances, introducing policy-based routing, work on our Application Centric Infrastructure migration and enhancing the reporting module.

This investment is necessary to secure TPL's technology and digital assets as a key part of its Cyber Security Infrastructure. The Check Point Firewall provides access control,

segregation and situation awareness for all TPL branches for both the staff and public. This investment helps provide a safe computing investment for all users of the TPL.

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SIGNATURE

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