

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: SAFETY AND TRAINING SERVICES CONTRACT

BACKGROUND:

The FY 2012/13 Risk Management Program operating budget for safety training includes \$162,413 for outside professional services for safety program development (\$85,413), safety training (\$52,000) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance support for City departments (\$25,000). The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) has provided these services for the City for the past eight years. IAMU's knowledge and expertise in OSHA compliance and safety training continues to provide appropriate assistance to our water and electric utilities and to the City's other operating departments.

The proposed contract extension with IAMU calls for a continuation of safety program development, training and compliance support for City departments during FY 2012/13 at a cost not to exceed the approved budget amount of \$162,413. This is the same amount as the expiring 2011/12 agreement.

A few of the significant accomplishments of this program during the past year include increasing Ames-specific information in the training courses, rolling out of training and process improvements for injury reporting, delivery of workstation ergonomic assistance to administrative employees, and accessing on-line City claims data to identify and correct problem injury areas.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve a contract with the IAMU to continue the City's program of safety and training professional services during FY 2012/13 at a cost not to exceed \$162,413.
2. Reject the IAMU proposed contract and direct staff to seek proposals from other providers of these services.
3. Do not contract with an outside organization to provide safety compliance and training services and assign internal staff to provide the required programs and services. Given current workloads, however, it will not be possible to accomplish these tasks with existing staff in an appropriate time frame.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The IAMU has demonstrated that it can partner with the City and leverage its own OSHA expertise and knowledge of City operations to deploy safety services that benefit the City's departments and employees. They also help ensure that the City stays current with industry trends and regulations. The FY 2012/13 services in this contract are part of our ongoing risk management program to provide a safe and compliant workplace throughout the City and to control the cost of workers compensation claims.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the contract with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities for safety compliance and training professional services during FY 2012/13 at a cost not to exceed \$162,413.