

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIBER OPTIC DEPLOYMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

At the March 26, 2013 meeting, Council approved a 28E Intergovernmental Agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the use of IDOT's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) network. The ITS is a network consisting of cameras, sensors, and dynamic message boards in the Ames area and I-35 corridor to assist in traffic operations and information dissemination in and around the Ames area. The 28E agreement between the City and IDOT provides for City access to the ITS network for low-cost expansion of the City network as well as access to data provided by the ITS. The City is responsible for the cost of connections between the ITS and City facilities.

On August 12, 2014, Council approved plans and specifications and issued a Notice to Bidders for the Fiber Optic Deployment project to connect to the Water Pollution Control Plant, Fire Station 3, and the Animal Shelter to the ITS network. The Fiber Optic Deployment project also includes network connections to Fire Station 2 through the Ames Intermodal Facility. On September 10, 2014, project bids were opened; two bids were received and are summarized below:

| <u>Bidder</u>                                       | <u>Bid Amount</u> |
|---|-------------------|
| Communication Innovators, Inc., Pleasant Hill, IA   | \$74,518.00       |
| Precision Underground Utilities, LLC, Cambridge, IA | \$81,357.83       |

Funding for the Information Technology Fiber Optic Deployment project will be from a larger pool of funding budgeted for City network infrastructure improvements and City network equipment replacement and improvements. The cost estimate for the project was \$70,303.35. The low bid of \$74,518 was slightly above estimate, but within the approved budget for network expansion projects.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Accept the report of bids for the Information Technology Fiber Optic Deployment project and award the contract to Communication Innovators, Inc. of Pleasant Hill, IA in the amount of \$74,518.
2. Do not move forward with the project at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This project will provide for expansion of City network connectivity and greatly improve data and telephone service to several of the City's remote locations. Funding for the project will be provided from the current City Council adopted budget for network improvements.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby accepting the report of bids for the Information Technology Fiber Optic Deployment project and awarding the contract to Communication Innovators, Inc. of Pleasant Hill, IA in the amount of \$74,518.