

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR EMERALD ASH BORER TREE REMOVALS, STUMP GRINDING, TREATMENT, AND TREE REPLACEMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan and Urban Forest Diversification and Reforestation Program was approved by City Council on December 9, 2014. As outlined in this plan, removals of trees larger than 18-inch diameter at breast height (DBH), stump grinding, treatment to prolong the life of select ash trees, and planting of replacement trees were all to be bid as contract work.

All trees were removed by City crews in FY 14/15 (Plan Year 1) this past winter. This included a few trees larger than 18-inch DBH. City crews were able to accomplish these removals due to the mild temperatures and limited number of snow events. It is anticipated that the larger DBH tree removals will still be bid out to contractors in the future as the larger trees will begin to require more specialized equipment for removal.

Bids were received by the City on March 11, 2015 and are compiled below:

Ash Tree Removal – FY15/16 (Plan Year 2)

LawnPro LLC	\$ 4,715.00
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$ 9,900.00
Dan’s Custom Landscapes, Inc.	\$13,110.00
Frye Tree Service	\$17,550.00
Family Tree Care LLC	\$26,896.00

Ash Tree Stump Grinding – FY 14/15 and 15/16 (Plan Years 1 and 2)

	<u>FY 14/15</u>	<u>FY 15/16</u>
LawnPro LLC	\$ 5,113.88	\$ 5,352.84
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$ 8,825.00	\$10,920.00
Frye Tree Service	\$11,997.00	\$12,498.00
Dan’s Custom Landscapes, Inc.	\$12,518.00	\$14,133.00

Ash Tree Treatment – FY 14/15 (Plan Year 1)

LawnPro LLC	\$ 84,052.65
Dan’s Custom Landscapes, Inc.	\$ 92,563.32
Robert Kinnucan Tree Experts	\$ 98,882.25
TruGreen Limited Partnership	\$103,509.12
Family Tree Care LLC	\$171,639.00

Ash Tree Replacement – FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 (Plan Years 1 and 2)

	<u>FY 14/15</u>	<u>FY 15/16</u>
Country Landscapes, Inc	\$42,257.60	\$45,520.20
Frye Tree Service	\$47,934.04	\$49,721.33
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$64,900.00	\$70,680.00
LawnPro LLC	\$68,420.00	\$70,908.00
Dan’s Custom Landscapes, Inc.	\$90,409.00	\$93,696.60

The low bids for these contracts for FY 14/15 (Plan Year 1) total \$131,424.13. Funding for FY 14/15 is included in the approved budget at \$172,000.

The low bids for these contracts for FY15/16 (Plan Year 2) total \$55,588.04. Funding for FY 15/16 is included in the approved budget at \$211,000.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- 1a. Accept the report of bids for Ash Tree Removals, Ash Tree Stump Grinding, Ash Tree Treatment, and Ash Tree Replacement.
  - b. Award the Ash Tree Removals, Ash Tree Stump Grinding, and Ash Tree Treatment to LawnPro of Ames, IA in the amount of \$99,234.37.
  - c. Award the Ash Tree Replacement to Country Landscapes of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$87,777.80.
2. Reject the bids and direct staff to make changes to the bid packages.

**MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Work has already begun on the Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan by City crews. Awarding these bids will allow work to continue with the approved plan in a proactive response to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.