

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GIS Software Enterprise License Agreement (ELA)

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames has made a considerable investment in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies including the necessary software. The City uses ArcGIS as its primary GIS software platform and has numerous desktop installations, mobile applications, and web applications deployed throughout the organization. ArcGIS is developed and distributed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, CA.

In fiscal year 2009/2010, the City reached a tipping point in ArcGIS software expenditures which justified switching from the standalone licensing model to the Enterprise (unlimited) Licensing Agreement (ELA). Since that time the City appropriates \$51,000 annually to cover this expense. The 3 year contract expires on September 15, 2015 and thus requires reauthorization to continue licensing through 2018.

The total contract amount is \$150,000 over three years (\$50,000 per year). This amount is \$1000 less per year than the previous three years' contract amount. This decrease is due to changing technologies and mobile advancements which do not require certain extra licensing. The ELA expenses have been, and will continue to be, spread across numerous City departments according to use.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can decide to continue with the existing ESRI software expenditures and reauthorize the Enterprise Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute of Redlands, CA for a term of 3 years at a rate of \$50,000 per annum.
2. The City Council can decide not to enter into a three year agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute. This action will result in restricted licensing and a more costly annual contract (a total of \$230,400 over 3 years). Or, as an alternative, the City could seek out other GIS software providers. However, this option would require a very costly programming conversion.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approving the Enterprise Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute will continue to allow the City to leverage existing software expenditures and provide for unlimited licensing. Doing so provides a cost effective way to increase

information management and sharing throughout the organization and extend these tools to the public.

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