

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: SPECIALIZED CLEANING SERVICES, INCLUDING GRIT BLASTING, HYDRO BLASTING, DETONATION BLASTING, AND VAC TRUCK SERVICES FOR THE POWER PLANT

BACKGROUND

The City's Electric Utility has two coal-fired, high-pressure steam generation units within the City of Ames Power Plant, referred to as Unit No. 7 and Unit No. 8. These units require regular professional maintenance and repair. This consists of emergency service, as well as regularly scheduled planned repairs. The repair of the boilers on these generation units requires professional trade crafts such as boilermakers, steam/pipe fitters, and millwrights, to list a few.

The boiler units operate under environmental conditions with high heat and high pressure. Due to the operational conditions and fuel burned, the internal surfaces of the boilers are often covered with hardened ash, molten glass, and other substances, which coat the internal boiler tubes and boiler walls. Because of the conditions resulting from burning Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), a reducing atmosphere exists in portions of the boiler and there are chlorides present from burning plastics. As a result, parts of the boiler units such as the superheat tubes and boiler wall tubes would eventually fail due to tube wasting.

When tube failures occur, the City contracts with private firms who have the expertise to perform the emergency repairs needed to bring the unit back into operation. Prior to the professional crafts entering the boilers to carry out inspections and repairs, the surfaces must be cleaned of ash coating and debris. This cleaning process requires high-pressure water washing, grit blasting, or use of explosives to loosen and remove the materials. After loosening or breaking up these substances, they are removed from the boiler using the sluice system or by large industrial vacuums.

On June 23, 2009, City Council awarded a contract to W-S Industrial Services for a number of "heavier duty" cleaning services, including grit blasting, hydro blasting, detonation blasting, and vacuum truck services. That contract included five optional twelve-month renewal periods. On May 13, 2014, City Council approved the fifth and final renewal of this contract in an amount not to exceed \$199,000.

Council should note that the actual amount spent on this contract was \$115,823.58, which is less than the total contract amount by \$83,176.42. This is due to the time and material charges associated with the contract were less than anticipated.

All of the requirements of the contract have been met by W-S Industrial Services, Inc., and the Power Plant Engineer has provided a certificate of completion.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1) Accept completion of the contract with W-S Industrial Services, Inc. for the FY2014/15 specialized cleaning services contract, including grit blasting, hydro blasting, detonation blasting, and vacuum truck services at a total cost of \$115,823.58.
- 2) Delay acceptance of this contract.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The contractor for the specialized cleaning services contract, including grit blasting, hydro blasting, detonation blasting, and vacuum truck services has completed all of the work for the 2014/15 period. The Power Plant Engineer has issued a certificate of completion on the work.

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