

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Water Pollution Control (WPC) Facility maintains five lift stations in the community. Lift stations are used to pump sewage from low-lying areas that cannot flow by gravity to WPC. Two of the lift stations, referred to as the Highway 30 Lift Station and the Orchard Drive Lift Station, are in need of improvements. The Highway 30 Lift Station was constructed in 1994. The pumps and the electronic controls have reached the end of their useful life and are in deteriorating condition. The Orchard Drive Lift Station was constructed in approximately 1940, and underwent a minor upgrade in 2000. It is located adjacent to Squaw Creek and several recent flooding events have damaged the electrical components. The controls need to be replaced and elevated to prevent future damage.

On September 8, 2015, Council issued a notice to bidders. Staff opened bids on October 14, 2015. The bids are summarized below:

Bidder	Base bid	Base Bid + Bid Alternate 1
C. L. Carroll Co., Inc.	\$440,000	\$450,000
Weidner Construction, Inc.	\$667,000	No Bid
Gehrke Inc.	\$680,000	\$680,000
Keller Excavating, Inc.	\$694,200	\$594,200
J & K Contracting, LLC	No Bid	\$695,000

The project was bid with an alternate pump material option, but staff is recommending selecting the base bid. C.L. Carroll is the lowest responsible bidder and based on experience with the firm on other projects, staff and the consulting engineer recommend awarding them the project. The Engineer's letter of recommendation of award is attached.

The lift station improvements are included in the 2013/14 Capital Improvements Plan which includes \$1,040,000 for the lift station improvements. Funding is anticipated to come from a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan. HDR Engineering, Inc. was awarded a contract to complete the design work. The revised project budget following the bid opening is shown on the following page:

Engineering fees	\$124,940
Construction Bid	440,000
Construction Contingency (15%)	66,000
Portable Generator (Separate Contract)	135,000
<u>Equipment Contingency (20%)</u>	<u>27,000</u>
Total project cost	\$792,940

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Award a contract for replacement of the lift station improvement project to C. L. Carroll Co., Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, in the amount of \$440,000.
2. Do not award a contract at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The WPC lift stations are an important part of the collection system and need to be maintained to continue providing service to the community. The project has met all the SRF requirements and is eligible for a low interest construction loan. Throughout the project, W&PC staff has worked with the affected property owners.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 and award a contract for replacement of the lift station improvement project to C. L. Carroll Co., Inc., of Des Moines, Iowa, in the amount of \$440,000.



October 21, 2015

Kris Evans, PhD, PE  
City of Ames  
300 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Building 1  
Ames, Iowa 50010

RE: City of Ames Water Pollution Control Lift Station Improvements Project  
Bid Award Recommendation

On October 14, 2015, the City of Ames opened bids for the Water Pollution Control Lift Station Improvements Project. During the bidding period there was a high level of interest from potential bidders with numerous inquiries and questions received and answered by HDR. Reflective of a competitive bidding climate, a total of five bids were opened.

The bids included a base bid and a bid alternate. The base bid included cast iron pump impellers and stainless steel wear rings for the Dayton Avenue Lift Station Pumps and the bid alternate included hardened iron pump impellers and wear rings. As requested on the Bid Form, the bidders offered a lump sum amount for the project. Four base bids were received ranging from \$440,000 to \$694,200 with an average of \$620,300. Four bid alternate bids were received ranging from \$450,000 to \$695,000 with an average of \$604,800. The engineer's opinion of probable construction cost was \$700,000.

The apparent low bidder was C. L. Carroll with a base bid of \$440,000 and the bid alternate of \$450,000. The apparent low bidder was \$180,300 (approximately 29 percent) and \$154,800 (approximately 25 percent) below the average bid for the base bid and bid alternate, respectively. These differences give cause for concern.

HDR discussed the project with C. L. Carroll and it appears that they are familiar with the project sites and have considered the major components of the project. C. L. Carroll provided a letter outlining their approach to the project, which appears to be reasonable. After reviewing and discussing the project components, C. L. Carroll indicated that they are comfortable with their bid. HDR reviewed references from previous projects and C. L. Carroll was given favorable reviews. C. L. Carroll appears to be a responsible contractor qualified for this project.

Following evaluation of the bids received, HDR recommends award of a contract in the amount of \$440,000 (Total Base Bid), to the following as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder:

C. L. Carroll Co., Inc.  
3623 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50313

If you have any questions, please contact me at (515) 280-4946.

Sincerely,

**HDR Engineering, Inc.**



Patrick Brown, PE  
Project Manager