

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 were 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. Work in this program is scheduled to take 20 years to complete with a majority of removals happening in the first 5 years of the plan.

In Plan Years 1 and 2, over 450 ash trees in the right of way have been removed, which accounts for approximately 20% of the ash trees in the response program. Tree removals in FY 2016/17 (Plan Year 3) by City crews are nearing completion. A few larger trees remain that will be removed by contractor forces in this program.

Including the partnership with the Ames Foundation, over 700 trees in the right of way have been planted. Tree plantings for this program have been scheduled for fall plantings to help aid in tree survival rates.

In addition to the removals and plantings mentioned above, bids were also received on January 5, 2017, for stump grinding and treatment. The results are compiled below:

Ash Tree Removal – FY 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Plan Years 3 and 4)

	<u>FY 16/17</u>	<u>FY 17/18</u>
LawnPro LLC	\$ 6,884.00	\$ 1,272.00
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$11,000.00	\$ 2,100.00
Perficut Companies, Inc.	\$14,969.70	\$ 2,886.30
Family Tree Care, LLC	\$20,426.00	\$ 3,660.00

Ash Tree Stump Grinding – FY 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Plan Years 3 and 4)

	<u>FY 16/17</u>	<u>FY 17/18</u>
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,600.00
LawnPro LLC	\$ 9,590.00	\$ 9,042.00
Perficut Companies, Inc.	\$24,850.00	\$23,100.00

Ash Tree Treatment – FY 17/18 (Plan Year 4)

	<u>FY 17/18</u>
Robert Kinnucan Tree Experts	\$ 70,125.00
TruGreen Limited Partnership	\$ 80,410.00
LawnPro LLC	\$ 82,093.00
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$ 93,500.00
Perficut Companies, Inc.	\$104,720.00
Reliable Property Services	\$107,525.00
Family Tree Care LLC	\$121,550.00

Ash Tree Replacement – FY 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Plan Years 3 and 4)

	<u>FY 16/17</u>	<u>FY 17/18</u>
Country Landscapes, Inc	\$51,270.45	\$48,866.40
Finco Tree/Wood Service LLC	\$57,750.00	\$55,000.00
Reliable Property Services	\$63,525.00	\$60,500.00

The low bids for these contracts for FY 2016/17 (Plan Year 3) total \$65,154.45. Funding for FY 2016/17 is included in the approved budget at \$100,000. The low bids for these contracts for FY 2017/18 (Plan Year 4) total \$126,863.40. Funding for FY 2017/18 is included in the proposed budget at \$200,000.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Accept the report of bids for Ash Tree Removals, Ash Tree Stump Grinding, Ash Tree Treatment, and Ash Tree Replacement.
 - b. Award Ash Tree Removals to LawnPro of Ames, IA in the amount of \$8,156.00.
 - c. Award Ash Tree Stump Grinding to Finco Tree/Wood Service of Kelley, IA in the amount of \$13,600.
 - d. Award Ash Tree Treatment to Robert Kinnucan Tree Experts of Lake Bluff, IL in the amount of \$70,125.
 - e. Award the Ash Tree Replacement to Country Landscapes of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$100,136.85.
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 threat.

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