

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: RIGHT OF WAY TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL PROGRAM

BACKGROUND:

In the fall of 2016, Lawn Pro L.L.C., Colo, IA, was awarded the contract for tree trimming, tree removal, and stump removal in the City right-of-way as directed by City staff. Most of the contracted work is for removal of trees too large or trimming that is too high for the equipment owned by the City. With the Parks and Recreation Department taking over right-of-way maintenance on April 1, 2017, the renewal of the Right-Of-Way Tree Trimming & Removal Program contract was overlooked. This contract expired June 30, 2017. However, the contract has a renewable option for FY 17/18 and FY 18/19. The contracted price per crew hour for FY 17/18 is \$50.98 which represents a three percent increase from the FY 16/17 contract.

The FY 17/18 budget includes \$87,000 for this work. Since July 1, \$12,457 has been spent for contracted tree work leaving \$74,543 available for the contract. Staff is proposing awarding the contract in an amount not to exceed \$74,543.

It is staff's goal to perform as much tree work as possible with staff during the winter months and have the contractor perform needed tree work April through June. By doing this, we are utilizing staff when they have the capacity to do this type of work. In April, the demands of staff to accomplish non-tree related tasks in the park system and the right-of-way become much greater. By having the contractor start doing tree work at this time allows staff to perform other duties. Please note the contractor may perform tree work during the winter months as needed.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to LawnPro L.L.C. of Colo, IA, in an amount not to exceed \$74,543 for the 2017/18 Tree Trimming and Removal Program.
2. Do not renew the contract with LawnPro L.L.C of Colo, IA and direct staff to rebid.
3. Do not renew the contract with LawnPro L.L.C. of Colo, IA and attempt to contract tree removal, tree trimming, and stump grinding on an as-need basis.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is an important part of maintaining the City's right-of-way and renewing the contract will provide the largest amount of value for this program. Renewing the contract will also give an opportunity for staff to evaluate the current program and recommend changes for future contracts.

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