

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: COMBUSTION TURBINE FUEL FORWARDING PUMP HOUSE FIRE PROTECTION UPGRADE


BACKGROUND:

On January 28, 2020, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for the upgrade of the fire protection system at the City of Ames Combustion Turbine (CT) site located on Pullman Avenue. The current system is currently a pressurized Carbon Dioxide (CO2) system and needs to be upgraded to a dry pipe sprinkler system to meet current insurance standards.

The current system has limited operability and can be operated only for a fixed amount of time due to the limited supply of on-site CO2. Upgrading the system to a dry pipe sprinkler system would increase the capacity of the system to address the concern for the length of time the system would be able to operate; by tapping into the onsite water line, which would provide an “unlimited” supply of fire retardant.

Bid documents were issued to twenty-nine firms and four plan rooms. The bid was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and a Legal Notice was published on the websites of a contractor plan room service with statewide circulation and the Iowa League of Cities.

On February 26, 2020, two bids were received as shown on the report below.

 Invitation to Bid #2020-095 Fuel Forwarding Pump House Fire Protection Upgrade Bid Summary			
BIDDER	LUMP SUM COST	SALES AND/OR USE TAXES INC.	EVALUATED BID PRICE
The Waldinger Corporation West Des Moines	\$129,071.00	\$3,705.00	\$129,071.00
Tri-City Electric Company of IA Davenport	\$345,400.00	\$18,099.52	\$345,400.00

Staff reviewed the bids received and determined that lowest responsive, responsible bidder The Waldinger Corporation of West Des Moines, Iowa is qualified to perform the necessary work and has the capacity to complete the project within the timeframe required. Staff recommends an award of contract to The Waldinger Corporation of West Des Moines, Iowa for base bid in the amount of \$129,071.00 is in the best interest of the City. This vendor is licensed to collect taxes for the State of Iowa.

The engineer's estimate to upgrade the CT fuel forwarding building fire protection system is \$149,000. The approved FY 2019/20 Capital Improvements Plan includes a funding carryover of \$782,005 for the Power Plant Fire Protection system.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to The Waldinger Corporation., West Des Moines, IA, for the Fuel Forwarding Pump House Fire Protection Upgrade in the amount of \$129,071.00.
2. Reject the bids, which will delay this upgrade.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary to upgrade the fire protection system to increase site safety precautions and to meet a recommendation from the insurance company.

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