

ITEM #: 12  
 DATE: 02-28-23  
 DEPT: Electric

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: FURNISH 69kV AND 161kV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKERS**

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 10, 2023, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for Furnishing 69kV and 161kV SF6 Circuit Breakers. The project is to procure (6) 69kV SF6 circuit breakers to: 1) replace two existing obsolete oil-filled circuit breakers at the Mortensen Road Substation, 2) obtain three new breakers as part of a planned project at the Ontario Road Substation, and 3) purchase one spare 69kV and one 161kV breakers for Electric Services' inventory, which will be kept on hand for the emergency replacement of a breaker in the event of a breaker failure.

**Staff attempted to obtain a 161kV breaker as part of this bid but did not receive responsive proposals.** Staff plans to procure the 161 kV breaker at a later date. On February 1, 2023, two bids were received as shown below for six 69 kV breakers:

<b>BIDDER</b>	<b>69KV BREAKERS</b>
GE Grid Solutions, Inc. Charleroi, PA	\$407,070.00
WESCO Distribution, Inc. Des Moines, IA	\$789,740.25

\*inclusive of Iowa sales tax

These bids were reported to the City Council on February 14, 2023. At that meeting, documents provided to the City Council incorrectly reported that the engineer's estimate for six 69kV breakers was \$450,000. The \$450,000 figure should have indicated that it was the total estimated amount for the purchase of six 69kV breakers and one 161kV breaker.

At the February 14 meeting, staff requested more time to evaluate the bids before a recommendation could be made for an award. After reviewing the bids further, staff determined that the bid from GE Grid Solutions, of Charleroi, PA, in the amount of \$407,070 is acceptable. Lead time for these breakers is approximately 66 weeks after a purchase order is placed, so delivery is anticipated in or around June 2024.

**Due to the significant quoted lead time for these breakers, staff has also determined a need to purchase an additional 69kV circuit breaker for the future Capital Improvement Project at Mortensen Road Substation for transformer protection. Although funds for this CIP project are programmed for FY 2024/25, staff will advance the funds to FY 2023/24 at final budget amendments. This**

**additional breaker will be an additional cost of \$67,845 (the same unit pricing as the other breakers) for a total award of \$474,915.**

Funding is available from the following sources:

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b># BREAKERS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
2022/23 Minor Transmission Substation Improvements (operating budget; \$380,000 available)	3	\$ 203,535
Ontario Road Substation CIP (\$1,300,000 available)	3	203,535
Mortensen Road Substation CIP (\$1,500,000 available)	1	67,845
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>\$ 474,915</b>

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Award a contract to GE Grid Solutions, Charleroi, PA, to furnish seven 69kV SF6 Circuit Breakers in the amount of \$474,915 (inclusive of Iowa sales tax).
2. Award a contract to the other vendor.
3. Reject the bids and direct staff to rebid.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This equipment is necessary to complete the projects at the specified substations and to secure a system spare. The planned projects improve system reliability by replacing obsolete oil circuit breakers, adding additional line and transformer protection at Ontario Road Substation, adding transformer protection at Mortensen Road Substation, and securing a system spare which will help system restoration in the event of a breaker failure. These projects are necessary for Electric Services to continue providing safe, reliable, service to the customers in the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.