

ITEM #: 9  
DATE: 02-28-23  
DEPT: Finance

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**                   **AWARD CONTRACT TO PURCHASE  
VIRTUALIZATION ENVIRONMENT**

**BACKGROUND:**

Multi-Agency Public Safety Group (MAPSG) is the public safety collaboration which includes Story County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State University Public Safety, and Ames Police as the principal collaborators. The MAPSG network operates and maintains the Public Safety information system (Computer-aided dispatch (CAD), records, jail and mobile data) for the MAPSG partners.

The network includes storage servers that were purchased in March 2017 and compute servers which were purchased in April 2018. These two elements are now at the end of their initial warranty period and the MAPSG IT support partners recommend replacement.

IP Pathways LLC (IP Pathways) has been MAPSG's technical partner since the inception of MAPSG and the source of the original equipment. Our County IT partners have been working with IP Pathways to identify the configuration of both types of servers. Additionally, IP Pathways has worked with the MAPSG group to provide a plan for the migration of our current virtualization environment to a new virtualization environment.

**Given the critical nature of the system, the importance of compatibility/cohesiveness of the software/hardware, and potential future pricing increases expected, staff believes it is appropriate to waive the competitive bidding requirements. Additionally, staff has compared the proposed equipment to other publicly bid contracts for similar equipment and found the pricing to be competitive in the current marketplace.**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Computer servers	\$39,783.54
Storage servers	\$73,157.19
Professional services	\$23,280.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,221.10</b>

The expected lifetime of this replacement virtualization environment is 5-6 years. The MAPSG computer replacement fund has \$175,224.18 to replace information technology equipment, including the MAPSG compute and storage servers.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. A. Waive the Purchasing Policies and Procedures for competitive bidding requirements and award a single source procurement.
- B. Award a contract to IP Pathways LLC, Urbandale, IA for the purchase of MAPSG virtualization environment in the amount not to exceed \$136,221.10.
2. Do not authorize software upgrade and refer back to staff for further options.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

As introduced above, IP Pathways has been the technical partner to MAPSG from the beginning of MAPSG. Our County IT partners have worked with IP Pathways to configure this solution and verify that it meets the needs of our current software environment. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1A & 1B.