

ITEM #: 18
DATE: 06-13-23
DEPT: FIN.

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO WAIVE FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE FROM SUPERION, LLC (MAPSG)

BACKGROUND:

On June 14, 2005, the City entered into a 28E Agreement to support a joint computer network for public safety. The Multi-Agency Public Safety Group (MAPSG) is a public safety collaboration that includes Story County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State University Department of Public Safety, and Ames Police as the principal collaborators. As part of the agreement, each entity is allocated a share of costs and responsibilities. The City is responsible for 27% of the costs and for arranging as well as payment of software maintenance.

In order to comply with the terms of the agreement, the City has historically purchased ONESolution software, a software product of Superion, LLC, a CentralSquare Company (Central Square). Central Square is the shared public safety software vendor for the Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch, Police Records, Phase II Mapping, MCIC/State Interface, and reporting applications. The City contracts with the vendor on an annual basis for maintenance services. **Central Square, LLC is the sole provider of maintenance for these software applications.** This yearly maintenance includes 24-hour programming support, software upgrades on all applications throughout the year, and eligibility to participate in the Central Square Users' Group annual meeting, where software enhancements are requested and formalized for the next year.

The representatives of each Agency responsible for the coordination of MAPSG continue to believe this solution continues to be the best solution to meet the needs of the group. **In anticipation of the annual renewal, \$211,591 was included and approved by the City Council as part of the FY 2023/24 budget process. This estimate was a 5% increase over the previous renewal from ONESolution software.**

Unfortunately, the renewal provided by ONESolution software was higher than anticipated, \$224,952.33, a 10% increase from the July 2022 cost. The City of Ames' share of these expenses is \$61,299.51, approximately 27%. While this renewal represents a significant increase in renewal cost, the MAPGS partners continue to believe this solution is best suited to meet the needs of the partnership and avoid significant disruptions in service. If approved, staff will prepare a budget amendment to accommodate the increase in Fall 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive formal bidding requirements and authorize City staff to enter into FY 2023/2024 software maintenance contracts with Superior, LLC, a CentralSquare Company, Lake Mary, FL, in the amount of \$224,952.33.
2. Do not authorize continuing a software maintenance contract with Superior LLC, and attempt to find another vendor for this type of software or discontinue the intergovernmental partnership.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

As part of the MAPSG agreement, the City is responsible for software maintenance, of which the City is responsible for 27% of the total cost. The group has historically utilized Central Square as the shared public safety software vendor for the Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch, Police Records, Phase II Mapping, MCIC/State Interface, and reporting applications and has been happy with the product and service provided.

Because Central Square, LLC is the sole provider of the software, staff believes it is in the City’s best interest for the Council to waive the formal bidding requirement. Even though the renewal costs are higher than anticipated, the representatives of MAPSG continue to recommend approval. Of the total renewal cost of \$224,952.33, the City will be responsible for 27% or \$61,299.51. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.