

ITEM#: 30
 DATE: 06-13-23
 DEPT: FLEET

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – PURCHASE FOUR SOLAR POWERED MOBILE MESSAGE BOARDS

BACKGROUND:

Public Works Engineering uses several mobile message boards to provide information to the public traveling in Ames. These message boards are critical to traffic control in areas of road construction and high traffic flow events like ISU football games. These message boards use wireless communications to change the messages remotely. Because information can be quickly updated, they are valuable tools to inform the public of changes to traffic routes or delays during events and emergencies.

The transition to 4G and 5G cellular communications has made the 3G modems on the City’s current message boards inadequate. Four of these message boards are scheduled for replacement in FY 2023/24 with message boards containing updated communication technology. Bids for four new message boards were received as follows:

BIDDER	MAKE / MODEL / YEAR	UNIT PRICE	COST FOR 4 MESSAGE BOARDS
Street Smart Rental, LLC of Columbus, MN	VerMac / PCSM-548 / 2023	17,400.00	\$69,600.00
Quality Traffic Control of Des Moines, IA	VerMac / PCSM-548 / 2023	18,449.00	\$73,796.00
Safety Zone Specialists of Lakeland, FL	VerMac / PCSM-548 / 2023	18,889.20	\$75,556.80

The low bid from Street Smart Rental, LLC of Columbus, MN for four (4) 2023 VerMac PCMS-548 Solar Powered Mobile Message Boards, is acceptable and meets the City’s required specifications at the lowest price. Delivery of the new message boards will be after June 30, 2023. Available funding for this replacement is indicated below:

Available Funding:	
Replacement funds for the four existing units	\$ 71,195.80
<u>Salvage Value of equipment being replaced</u>	<u>5,500.00</u>
Available funding	\$ 75,695.00

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Street Smart Rental, LLC for the purchase of four 2023 VerMac PCMS-548 Solar Powered Mobile Message Boards in the amount of \$69,600.
2. Award the contract to one of the other bidders.

2. Reject the bids and retain the outdated equipment.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff from Fleet Services and Public Works have evaluated the bids and believe that the proposed purchase from Street Smart Rental, LLC meets the City's needs for replacement mobile message boards. The new equipment will provide increased reliability and efficiency for notification of projects and special messages. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.