

ITEM #: 54
 DATE: 06-13-23
 DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REPORT OF BIDS FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEM PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

The exterior of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is constructed primarily of pre-cast concrete panels and the interior of the structure also contains pre-cast concrete, poured-in-place concrete, as well as steel piping and equipment. These components, along with the large volume of water that is continuously moving through treatment, has created an environment that does not allow cellular phone signals to transmit easily within the facility. The WTP is staffed 24-hours per day and only one staff member is present for much of the time. A key safety component for the WTP staff is the ability to make and receive routine and emergency phone calls from anywhere within the building.

This project will extend the cellular networks of Verizon and US Cellular throughout the building and will allow routine safety calls to be made or received anywhere inside of the WTP. Improvement of the cellular signal within the building will also enhance the abilities of the Incident Command Center (ICC), as the ICC now operates out of the WTP when the need arises to activate it.

The project first appeared in the Capital Improvements Plan in FY 2019/2020. Design expenses were estimated at \$42,000 and \$315,000 was estimated for construction, for a project budget of \$357,000. A total of \$10,756 was expended in FY 2021/22, and the remaining balance of \$346,244 was carried over into the current FY 2022/23 budget and remains available for this work.

A Notice to Bidders for the WTP Distributed Antenna System was issued on April 25, 2023, and a bid due date of May 31, 2023, was set. Three bids were received on the bid due date. A fourth bid was received, but it was determined to be non-responsive and is not being considered further. A copy of the bid tabulation is included below:

Bidder	Lump Sum Bid
Profusion Wireless, LLC	\$223,700.00
Murphy Tower Service, LLC	\$352,994.60
Communication Innovators	\$461,498.00
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$227,676.50</i>

CommDEX, LLC of Smyrna, Georgia, is the City's consultant for the design of the Distributed Antenna System. **City staff and CommDEX require additional time to evaluate the bids and the capabilities of the bidding parties. Thus, staff is recommending that Council simply receive the report of bids at this time, and defer an award until after a thorough bid evaluation has been completed.** The evaluation is expected to take two to three weeks.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Receive the report of bids for the Water Treatment Plant Distributed Antenna System Project and delay the award of contract in order to fully evaluate the bids.
2. Receive the report of bids for the Water Treatment Plant Distributed Antenna System Project and award a contract to Profusion Wireless, LLC of Sioux Falls, SD, in the amount of \$223,700.00.
3. Reject the bids and direct staff to modify the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The complexity of the bids received and the disparity in the pricing requires additional evaluation before a recommendation for award can be presented to the City Council. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.