

ITEM #: 22  
DATE: 06-27-23  
DEPT: ELEC

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR POWER PLANT FIRE RISK  
MITIGATION—CONTRACT RENEWAL**

**BACKGROUND:**

Fire risk mitigation is important to the operation of power plants to ensure employee safety and to protect equipment. The fire protection standards of today are more rigorous than the requirements when the Power Plant was originally built. The City’s insurance carrier has made several loss prevention recommendations for the Power Plant. To address fire risks and possible equipment loss events, staff has held a contract with a consulting engineering firm to provide fire protection engineering, contract administration, and possible field installation oversight for the Power Plant.

The Capital Improvements Plan includes planned fire protection improvements to various systems within the Power Plant. Staff has determined that the projects in this plan will address the insurance provider’s recommendations for fire protection upgrades within the Power Plant.

**This contract will allow the Power Plant to continue working with the Engineer/Designer for various fire risk mitigation studies, for the preparation of specific fire systems design and specifications, and for fire system installation management, inspection, and testing.** Staff will utilize this contract to prioritize our plans with the insurance company to achieve the most value and protection for the dollar. Council should note that the selected engineering firm will not be allowed to contract for any part of the actual fire protection system installation.

Areas of study and projects include: smoke alarm integration in the Power Plant and Combustion Turbine site and installing fire suppression under both turbine-generators in the event of an oil fire. The design and engineering services for these projects will occur over several years.

On June 14, 2022, City Council awarded a contract to Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO, with an option to renew each year for up to five years. Staff would like to renew the contract for a second year with an amount not to exceed \$75,000; \$50,000 is in the FY 2023/24 Capital Improvement Plan and \$25,000 is carryover from the current fiscal year. Payments would be calculated on unit prices for actual work performed. **This contract will be for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This is the first of four possible renewal periods. There is no cost increase in rates for FY 2023/24.**

Staff believes that consistency in the engineering firm for the next several years will be advantageous in keeping contractors accountable for implementing the engineered work.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve contract renewal to Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO, for the Professional Services for Fire Risk Mitigation in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.
2. Reject the proposal and ask staff to solicit proposals for upcoming projects individually, thus delaying the engineering for all the projects.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This work is necessary for fire risk mitigation (fire detection, alarm, & suppression) to protect personnel and critical plant equipment. If not done, a loss event resulting from a fire could be catastrophic because of possible injury to personnel and the production of electricity could be halted. It is cost-effective for the Power Plant to have a company under contract to provide these services because of their specialized knowledge of current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code requirements and of mitigation equipment currently utilized in this industry. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.