

ITEM #: 10
 DATE: 08-08-23
 DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: REJECT 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 would extend the cellular networks of Verizon and US Cellular throughout the building and would 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 FY 2022/23 budget and remains available for this work.

A Notice to Bidders for the WTP Distributed Antenna System Project 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>

A Report of Bids was submitted to Council on June 13, 2023. Since then, staff communicated with the bidders to determine why the bids received were so wide-ranging in price. During that communication, it was discovered that the apparent low bidder, Profusion Wireless, LLC, had neglected to include all required components of the Distributed Antenna System in their bid. It was determined that this would cause the bid received by Profusion Wireless, LLC, to be non-responsive.

The two remaining bids are above the budgeted amount and are well above the Engineer's Estimate. Staff and the design consultant, Commdex, LLC, are continuing discussions about the project and are working to change the project's scope in order to find a more economical way of completing the Distributed Antenna System project. **Thus, staff is recommending that Council reject all bids at this time. If it is determined that the project can be completed within the approved budget, staff will bring it back to City Council to issue a new Notice to Bidders.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Reject all bids for the Water Treatment Plant Distributed Antenna System Project.
2. Award a contract to Murphy Tower Services, LLC, of Carlisle, Iowa, in the amount of \$352,994.60 and identify funding from other projects to cover the budget shortfall.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Improvement of the cellular coverage at the Water Treatment Plant is a priority for employee safety and Incident Command Center functionality. Unfortunately, the bids received exceed the budgeted amount and staff believe that altering the scope of the project to reduce costs is feasible. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.