

ITEM #: 5
DATE: 03-12-24
DEPT: W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES WELL FIELD GENERATOR MITIGATION PROJECT - PHASE 1 SUB-AWARD AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND:

Staff initiated an application to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) immediately following the 2020 derecho event. **The proposed project will provide emergency standby power to the five wells located in the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex (HYSC).**

On February 15th, 2024 staff was notified that the City was awarded a grant for Phase I of the project consisting of \$143,564 in federal funds and \$18,890 in State funds. The Phase I grant allows the City to hire an engineer for the design, and to hire an archaeologist to confirm that the proposed work will comply with various environmental and historic preservation obligations outlined in the agreement. At the conclusion of the Phase I work, with FEMA's concurrence and approval, a Phase II award would be made to fund the construction of the standby power emergency generator and required electrical connections.

Funding through the HMGP comes with several requirements, including clearance from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). For this project, it was determined by SHPO during the application process that a portion of the project would be in potentially sensitive archaeological areas. SHPO has determined that a Phase 1 archaeological assessment is required. Staff worked with the federal agencies to break the project into the two phases. In doing so, the City gained the ability to request federal funding for the Phase I archaeological assessment.

Completion of Phase I of this project will result in the following items being completed to allow FEMA's consideration of a Phase II award (construction).

- Final Plans and Specifications
- Permitting and Fees
- Survey/Staking
- Geotechnical Engineering and Soil Boring(s)
- Phase I Archaeological Assessment

The grant award for Phase I, and Phase II if awarded, stipulates that the federal share shall not exceed 76% of actual allowable sub-award costs. The state share shall not exceed 10% of the actual allowable subaward costs. **The City shall provide at least 14% through local non-federal (cash and/or in-kind) sources for actual allowable sub-award costs.**

The Phase I budget is as follows.

	Funding	Estimated Expense
Ames (Water Fund)	\$ 26,446	
Federal (FEMA)	143,564	
State (Iowa)	18,890	
Engineering		\$ 138,900
Surveying/Staking		18,000
Permitting & Fees		3,500
Geotechnical		10,000
Phase I Archaeological Assessment		18,500
TOTAL	\$ 188,900	\$ 188,900

The total project budget and authorized funding for both phases is as follows. Note that only the Phase I funding has been awarded at this time.

	Estimated Project Budget	Approved CIP Budget
Ames (Water Fund)	\$ 159,124	\$ 289,000
Federal (FEMA)	885,600	885,600
State (Iowa)	116,080	98,400
TOTAL	\$ 1,160,804	\$ 1,273,000

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the grant agreement with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security for the Ames Well Field Generator Mitigation Project - Phase 1.
2. Do not approve the grant agreement, and provide direction to staff on the funding for the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Providing redundant emergency power to the City's drinking water wells has been identified as a critical resiliency need of the Water Plant. The proposed project will provide standby power to wells located in the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex. The approved Capital Improvements Plan anticipated this grant award and included funding for the City's local match portion. The Water Fund model used to project the Fund's balance over time also anticipated this grant award. After several years working through the grant application process, the Phase I grant award is now ready for the City to approve. Therefore it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt alternative 1 above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[HMGP-DR-4483-IA-0021 City of Ames - Water and Pollution Control Subaward Agreement.pdf](#)