

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AMES PUBLIC LIBRARY VIDEO SECURITY EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND:

Over the past two years, numerous incidents have occurred that could have either been prevented, or the perpetrators apprehended, if the Library had the benefit of video surveillance. Specifically, in 2006 the Library experienced a number of window breakages, including breakage to the thick insulated windows on the east, south, and west sides of the building. In addition, a child was molested in April 2006 and two similar incidents occurred this year. Undesirable behavior has also occurred in the space popular with younger people during times when staff was not present. The theft of Library items, especially from the media collection, has been a long standing problem. Since we do not have the capability for constant staff supervision throughout the Library, a video surveillance system will enable us to either record the problem as it happens, or to identify persons responsible after the fact.

The approved 2007/08 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes \$52,760 for this video surveillance project. The balance needed to accomplish this project is available from the savings included in the approved 2008/09 CIP for the \$180,000 air chiller system project. Components of the air conditioning system have been replaced due to failures during the past year; and the remaining \$145,000 in air conditioning replacement will not be undertaken at this time. Staff is asking City Council to amend the 2008/09 CIP to allow for the additional funding to be used for the video surveillance project.

Plans and specifications were prepared by Benjamin Design Collaborative, P.C at a cost of \$6,153.00. The project was estimated to cost around \$45,000.

On July 22, 2008, bids were opened for this project. A summary of all bids follows:

Bidder	Base Bid Amount	Additional Surveillance Camera	Total Amount
Communication Innovators, Pleasant Hill, IA	\$49,586.15	(Indoor) \$1,150.00	\$52,736.15
		(Outdoor) \$2,000.00	
ICS Advanced Technologies, Ames, IA	\$60,631.15	\$1,947.40	\$62,578.55

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract for the Library video security system to Communication Innovators in the amount of \$52,736.15.
2. Reject bids and do not award a contract at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Ames Police Department has long advocated the installation of such a system. In addition to the video surveillance, the Library will be installing an electronic key access system to the staff entrances so we do not have to leave an unguarded entrance to the building during the time in which the Library is not open but staff is in the building. Sufficient CIP funding to accomplish this project is available from this project's budget and from savings in the air chiller system project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the contract for the Library video security system to Communication Innovators in the amount of \$52,736.15.