

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CYRIDE LIGHT-DUTY BUS PURCHASE

BACKGROUND:

CyRide is eligible to replace six light-duty buses. Staff has been reviewing various configurations of light-duty bus models and is now ready to move forward with a recommendation of contract award.

One light-duty bus (replacing unit #949) will be funded from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) at 100% federal participation. Three buses (replacing units 859, 938, and 939) will be funded at 83% through federal discretionary funding provided through SAFETEA-LU, the federal transportation bill, and a FY2009 earmark.

This spring CyRide became eligible for the replacement of two additional light-duty buses (replacing units 960 and 961) at 83% federal funding. The Ames Transit Agency Board of Directors approved the purchase of the light-duty buses at its August 19, 2009 meeting. Contract award would be contingent upon concurrence of award from the Iowa Department of Transportation Office of Public Transit.

The transit system had anticipated and budgeted for replacement of four of the six buses. The local match for the remaining two small buses was discussed and approved by the Transit Board in May 2009. The budget showing local share is detailed below.

Bus Type	# of Buses	Cost/Bus	Total Cost	Federal Share	Local Share
Light Duty (replaces #949)	1	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0
Light Duty (repl 859, 938, 939)	3	\$78,000	\$234,000	\$194,220	\$39,780
Light Duty (repl 960, 961)	2	\$80,000	\$160,000	\$132,800	\$27,200
TOTAL	6		\$474,000	\$407,020	\$66,980

CyRide's current capital closing balance has adequate funding to purchase these vehicles. The remainder of the closing balance is set aside for smaller capital purchases and match funds needed for future building repair and construction projects.

Grants have been received for these facility projects and the local funding is committed to them.

The Iowa Department of Transportation Office of Procurement administered a light-duty bus procurement on behalf of all of Iowa's transit agencies in late 2008. Several different models and configurations were specified so that transit systems could pick vehicles that best suit their needs from a pre-approved contract. CyRide will use available contract options to order the six light-duty buses from Thomas Bus Sales of Iowa, Inc. The bus bodies will be El Dorado National on Ford chassis with gasoline engines.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve contract award to Thomas Bus Sales of Iowa, Inc. of Des Moines, IA for the purchase of six light-duty buses at an amount not to exceed \$474,000.
2. Do not authorize the purchase of six light-duty buses.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Purchasing these six buses will help CyRide meet its objective of reducing the fleet age, thereby improving service quality and reliability to Ames residents.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, approving the purchase of six light-duty buses from Thomas Bus Sales of Iowa, Inc. of Des Moines, IA at a contract amount not to exceed \$474,000.