

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: POLICE SHOOTING RANGE PROJECT

BACKGROUND:

For many years the Police Department has operated and maintained a shooting range for police officer training and required firearms certification. The range is located west of Dayton Road just north of the railroad tracks on a former City landfill. The close proximity of the firing range to Ames has allowed officers to maintain skills in this critical area at minimal expense. For the last year, the range has been closed as the Department evaluated enhancements to ensure greater safety and security for those on and near the range.

After extensive review of the existing range, it was determined to change the line of fire, construct a new earthen berm and re-orient the existing shed on the property. The new earthen berm will be 25-feet in height, which is 5-feet over the recommended police shooting range height identified in the National Rifle Association (NRA) Range Design Handbook. The design will also include a bid alternate for a 5-foot railroad tie sound barrier for the top of the berm.

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009, bids were received as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Amount without bid alternate</u>	<u>Amount with bid alternate</u>
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 90,977.23	\$101,000.00
Keller Excavating, Inc.	\$ 83,929.75	\$ 99,292.75
Peterson Contractors, Inc.	\$ 84,314.80	\$114,314.80
Con-Struct, Inc.	\$107,062.64	\$116,912.64

This project is shown in the 2009/10 Capital Improvements Plan with financing in the amount of \$102,000 from Local Option Sales Tax. The low bid would allow the berm and bid alternate for a 5-foot railroad tie sound barrier to be constructed at this time.

ALTERNATIVES:

- 1a. Accept the report of bids for the Ames Police Shooting Range Project
 - b. Approve the final plans and specifications for the Ames Police Shooting Range Project.
 - c. Award the Ames Police Shooting Range Project to Keller Excavating, Inc. of Boone, Iowa, in the amount of \$99,929.75 with the bid alternate.
2. Reject the project.

MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

During the time that the Police Department’s firing range was closed, Ames officers have traveled to a site in rural Story County for firearms training. The additional travel has reduced the time available for training and increased both personnel and travel costs. In addition, the rural site has had a number of use restrictions, reducing the opportunities for training. Most importantly, the safety improvements included in this project will better protect both range users and those in the vicinity of the range.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby accepting the report of bids, approving the final plans and specifications, and awarding the Ames Police Shooting Range Project to Keller Excavating, Inc. of Boone, Iowa, in the amount of \$99,929.75.