

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE SUBSTATION CIRCUIT BREAKERS**

**BACKGROUND:**

The complete project is the expansion of the Veterinary Medicine (Vet Med) Electrical Substation which is needed to accommodate Iowa State University's (ISU) Vet Med Campus load additions and football stadium load additions. This substation also serves Ames' load additions south of Highway 30 and along South 16<sup>th</sup> Street in the vicinity of the Vet Med Substation. The project has been advanced to accommodate ISU's advanced schedule for the Vet Med Campus load additions. It has also been increased in scope and cost to include an additional transformer to better accommodate Ames' and ISU's future needs for capacity and reliable service in this area.

**This portion of the project is for the purchase of four circuit breakers and related accessories. The Engineer's estimate of the cost of these four circuit breakers is \$190,000.** It is necessary to specify and order these breakers ahead of the final design and construction bidding due to the long lead time for these critical pieces of equipment. There will be a separate CAF presented to Council for transformers. Additionally, the construction phase approval of plans and specs will be presented to City Council in the near future.

Upon City Council approval and receipt of favorable bids, the breakers will be ordered. The breakers will be delivered in the 2010/2011 fiscal year. It is anticipated that the substation construction itself will begin during August 2010. It is the goal to have this entire project completed prior to May 11, 2011, which is just prior to the estimated completion of the Vet Med facility expansion.

The approved FY2010/11 CIP for Electric Services includes \$3,600,000 for engineering, materials and construction of this project. Iowa State University is contributing an estimated \$1,489,727 to the cost of engineering and construction. To date, the project budget has the following items encumbered:

\$ 390,880	A cost-not-to-exceed for engineering services
\$1,250,000	Estimated for two transformers
<b>\$ 190,000</b>	<b>Estimated cost for breakers and related equipment</b>
<u>\$1,769,120</u>	Available for construction
\$3,600,000	Total Budgeted Project Cost

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council may approve the plans and specifications for the Vet Med Substation Circuit Breakers and set June 30, 2010, as the bid due date and July 13, 2010, as the date of hearing and award of contract.
2. Do not approve the plans and specifications at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

This project is necessary to accommodate both City and Iowa State University load requirements in the Vet Med Substation area. The schedule for this project is crucial as a result of new electric load being installed in 2011. Iowa State University has ordered new chiller equipment for its Veterinary Medicine campus expansion, which requires that the planned Vet Med Substation additions be in service no later than May 11, 2011. Existing transformer and feeder capacity at this substation is inadequate to support these new ISU load additions and Electric Services will be unable to meet the required in-service schedule if this circuit breaker bid is delayed.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, approving the plans and specifications for the Vet Med Substation Circuit Breakers and establishing June 30, 2010, as the bid due date and July 13, 2010, as the date of hearing and award of contract.