

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: VETERINARY MEDICINE (VET MED) SUBSTATION CAPACITOR BANK FOUNDATION INSTALLATION

BACKGROUND:

On March 27, 2012, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for the Vet Med Substation capacitor bank foundation installation. The overall project is for the procurement and installation of two capacitor banks for the Vet Med Substation. This portion is for the installation of a new concrete foundation in the Vet Med Substation to support the capacitor banks.

Bid documents were issued to four potential bidders. The bid was also advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and a Legal Notice was published in the Ames Tribune. It was also sent to two plan rooms. **The bid due date was April 25, 2012, and the City did not receive any bids.**

Staff reviewed the technical specifications and also contacted each of the bid plan holders to determine the reason that no bids were submitted. Two of the plan holders stated that the document must have been redirected to another area of each of their companies and got misplaced. They suspect this was due to the smaller work scope requirements of this project. The point of contacts for each of those companies expressed significant interest in providing bids on this project should the bids be reissued.

Based on the discussions with the existing plan holder's and the expanded bidder's list obtained from another City department, staff is confident that the City will receive bids if this project is rebid.

The engineer's estimate for this portion of the overall project is estimated at \$75,000. In 2010/11 the Capital Improvements Plan was adjusted to include \$350,000 for the Vet Med Substation Voltage Support project. The Council recently approved these funds for carryover to FY 2011/12, and approximately \$117,218 remains in the budget for this work. The actual installation of the capacitor banks will be done by City of Ames staff.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. a. Accept the report of no bids.
b. Direct staff to rebid the project.
c. Approve the preliminary plans and specifications for reissuance of the Vet Med Substation capacitor bank foundation installation and set May 23, 2012, as the bid due date and June 12, 2012, as the date of hearing and award of contract.
2. Do not direct staff to rebid the project and delay the installation of the foundation.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

There has been and will continue to be an increase of electrical load at the Vet Med Substation as both the ISU Veterinary Medicine campus and the Research Park continue to grow and expand. Installation of the capacitor banks at the Vet Med Substation will provide voltage support and add capacity to the system at a needed load center, improving electric service in that area.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.