

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 2012/13 AMES MUNICIPAL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS (PAVING IMPROVEMENTS)

BACKGROUND:

There are nearly two miles of paved lanes within the Ames Municipal Cemetery boundaries. These lanes provide public access for visitors to gravesites and for funerals, as well as for access for crews and equipment for funeral preparations and maintenance of the sites and grounds. Prior to 2008/09, endowed care funds were used for surface maintenance of the cemetery lanes. Beginning in 2008/09, state regulations were put into place that prohibited the use of these funds for all cemetery costs. As a result of the funding loss created by these regulations, maintenance of these lanes has been minimal and has led to continued deterioration.

After reviewing the lanes in the cemetery, a plan was created to address the deficiencies over several years. This project will entail a three-inch overlay of the lane adjacent to the main office and parking lot, seal coat in the areas around the maintenance buildings, and will provide a two-inch overlay for some of the southern lanes of the cemetery. The City also has a contract for slurry sealing some of the lanes in the northeast area of the cemetery.

Here is the current anticipated schedule of improvements in the Cemetery:

Year	Anticipated Work
2012-13	Slurry of northeastern lanes and overlay of southern lanes including lane in front of office building and associated parking lot
2013-14	Finish overlaying of southern lanes
2014-15	Mill and overlay of northern loop road
2015-16	Finish mill and overlay of northern loop road
2016-17	Water line replacement

This project was originally bid in February but was rejected due to the costs being higher than budgeted. Staff found that the cost of seal coating some areas of the cemetery was much higher than anticipated. Staff has removed this portion of the project and will evaluate other techniques with a lower cost that can be done at a later date.

The estimated construction cost is \$67,000. With engineering and construction administration estimated at \$1,000, the **total estimated expenses are \$68,000**. The available funding for this project is \$59,075 of Local Option Sales Tax from the Capital Improvements Plan in FY 11/12 and 12/13, and \$17,065 from remaining cemetery fence project funds, bringing **total available funding to \$76,140**.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the 2012/2013 Ames Municipal Cemetery Improvements (Paving Improvements) by establishing June 19, 2013, as the date of letting and June 25, 2013, as the date for report of bids.
2. Reject the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project will improve the look and ride of the access drive lanes, providing a better experience for visitors to the Ames Municipal Cemetery. These paving improvements were discussed by the Cemetery Focus Group, along with other improvements that have been made at the cemetery, including benches and trash cans.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the plans and specifications for the 2012/2013 Ames Municipal Cemetery Improvements (Paving Improvements) by establishing June 19, 2013, as the date of letting and June 25, 2013, as the date for report of bids.