

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:**    **RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE  
CLEARANCE PROGRAM FOR FY 2014/15**

**BACKGROUND:**

This contract includes nearly all of the requirements for tree trimming services for Electric Services during the 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 fiscal years. It does not cover large storm-related emergency situations.

Electric Services has broken down the City into 11 areas for tree trimming. Over a 5 year time period, the tree trimming crew will trim in all 11 areas. **Trimming is done to minimize electric system outages caused by trees and tree branches.**

On June 11, 2013, City Council awarded a contract to Asplundh Tree Expert Co., of Fairfax, Iowa, for tree trimming services for Electric Services. This contract contained two renewal options. The period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, is the first renewal option subject to Council approval of funding for the Line Clearance Program. Hourly rates for FY 2014/15 are shown on the attached sheet. The labor rates shown represent a 2% increase from FY 2013/14 in accordance with the contract terms initially established.

**The approved operating budget for FY2014/15 includes \$301,420 for this program. This included a \$25,000 addition to the FY 2013/14 amount to bring in a second crew for one month this summer. When the Ames to Ankeny 161 kV line was built, an initial tree trimming pass was made along the route in order to construct the line. This year the second crew will make another pass along the 161 kV route in order to further reduce tree interference with the line.**

Services provided under this contract are monitored by Electric Services staff to ensure that expenditures are performed properly and are in accordance with the approved funding level. Payments will be based on hourly rates, unit prices bid, and actual work performed. Total cost for FY 2014/15 shall be for the not-to-exceed amount of \$301,420. The renewal option for FY 2015/16 is exercisable at the Council's discretion.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the contract renewal with Asplundh Tree Expert Co., Fairfax, IA, for the Electric Distribution Line Clearance Program for the one-year period from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Actual payments will be calculated on unit prices bid and actual work performed in an amount not-to-exceed \$301,420 for FY 2014/15.
2. Do not renew the agreement and instruct staff to seek new competitive bids.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

An on-going tree trimming program helps mitigate the number of customer interruptions resulting from extreme weather events. Alternative No. 1 establishes a fixed price contract for performance of the required tree trimming services at the best price, obtained via the competitive sealed bid process. It has proven to be very cost-effective to have a company under contract to provide these services.

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



**ASPLUNDH TREE EXPERT  
COMPANY FAIRFAX, IOWA  
FY 2014 / 2015 RATES**

**HOURLY RATES**

<b>LABOR DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>STRAIGHT TIME</b>	<b>TIME &amp; ONE-HALF</b>
Working Foreman	\$31.26	\$42.21
Trimmer A	\$28.11	\$37.95
Trimmer B	\$27.04	\$36.49
Trimmer C	\$24.94	\$33.67
Trimmer D	\$23.51	\$31.74
Ground Person	\$22.07	\$29.79
Line Permitter	\$28.11	\$37.95

<b>EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>RATE PER CREW HOUR</b>
Hydraulic aerial device	\$13.97
Manual aerial device	\$8.15
Chip truck	\$8.15
Brush Tractor	\$61.62
Truck&Trailer for Brush trac.	\$14.72
Hydro Axe	\$69.55
Truck&Trailer for Hydro Axe.	\$17.55
Pick-up Truck	\$7.76
Power saw	\$0.46
Brush Chipper	\$4.31
Hand pruning equip.	No Charge
Ropes and body belts	No Charge

<b>MATERIALS &amp; SUPPLIES</b>	<b>BID PRICE</b>
Weedone CB	
Banvel CST per gal	
Garlon 4 per gal	\$30.43
Tree Paint: Maintain A per case of 12 13 Oz.cans	\$81.07
Other supplies Cost plus %	10%