

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FIBER OPTIC CABLE INSTALLATION FOR THE SOLAR FARM

BACKGROUND:

This project will consist of the installation of a fiber optic cable for the purposes of providing data communication and transfer between a new solar farm site and the existing SCADA system for the City of Ames Electric Services Department. The solar farm site is located at 623 Airport Road. The point of connection to the SCADA system will be located at the Vet Med Substation at 1925 S. Riverside Drive.

On August 5, 2020, an invitation to bid (ITB) document was issued to 33 companies. The ITB was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage.

On August 26, 2020, four (4) bids were received as shown below. Bids were requested for services including contractor-provided cable and installation (base bid) and services for City-provided cable (Alternate bid).

Bidder	Base Bid	Deduct Alternate Bid
Communication Innovators, Pleasant Hill, IA	\$52,900.00	\$49,100.00
Kramer Service Group, Weyerhaeuser, WI	\$75,000.00	\$74,560.00
Roaming Networks Inc, Fort Worth, TX	\$120,895.00	N/A
Primoris Electric Inc, Inver Grove Heights, MN	\$170,075.00	\$167,575.00

Staff reviewed bids and concluded that the apparent low bid submitted by Communication Innovators, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, is acceptable.

Funding for this project will come from the payments collects through the sale of Power Packs for our new community solar farm. Current account balance is \$1,031,786.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Communication Innovators, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, for the fiber optic cable installation at the City's new community solar farm for the base bid in the amount of \$52,900.
2. Award a contract to Communication Innovators, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, for the fiber optic cable installation at the City's new community solar farm for the Alternate bid in the amount of \$49,100.
3. Award the contract to one of the other three companies that submitted a bid.

4. Reject all bids and rebid the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This project is critical in the operation of the Solar Farm. This competitively bid process will provide installation at the best price. Staff does not believe we can purchase the fiber optic cable any cheaper than the amount that is included in the base bid.

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