

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR NETWORK WIRELESS ACCESS POINT EQUIPMENT

BACKGROUND:

The City's wireless network equipment last received a general update in April 2012. Five buildings were improved including City Hall, Electric Administration, Water Administration, Resource Recovery Plant, and the City Maintenance Facility. Wireless equipment was later added to other buildings, including the Water Plant in 2016 and Animal Control in 2019.

Currently, wireless equipment consists of a wireless controller and wireless access points. All of the City's wireless infrastructure is dependent on a wireless controller that was installed in summer 2012; this controller is expected to function for 10 years. Approximately one third of the access points are no longer supported; the balance of the access points will be unsupported in the future.

As part of a planned system upgrade to the City's wireless system, the Information Technology team plans to replace 102 existing wireless access points and install 25 additional wireless access points, in a total of 19 City buildings. The additional wireless access points will provide better coverage of the City's network wireless system and support the continuing needs of the departments.

These additional access points will provide for specific upgrades to CyRide (expanding wireless coverage to the garage to provide for computer support of buses), the Power Plant (allowing the use of tablet computers throughout the facility), and City Hall (which will allow better integration of police equipment with the City network).

The single wireless controller purchased in spring 2012 will be retired. The new wireless access points have controller features built in and are managed via the cloud. New management features will allow better control and monitoring of the wireless access points. A Request for Quotations was issued on May 5, 2021, to 43 vendors. Responses were received from three vendors.

| Vendors | Total Cost |
|---|-------------------|
| Carrier Access IT, LC, Clive, IA | \$113,464.70 |
| ACP Technologies (Advanced Cyber Promotions), West Seneca, NY | \$131,064.23 |
| ENO Consulting Group, LLC, Delray Beach, FL | \$142,351.96 |

IT staff reviewed the bids and concluded that the bid from Carrier Access IT, LC is acceptable. Carrier Access IT, LC can provide equipment within the project time

constraints.

Information Technology will fund the existing wireless access points through IT's replacement budget, and various departments will fund additional equipment in their buildings. Funding for this portion of the project will be as follows:

| Fund Source | Amount |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| IT Replacement Funds | \$97,529.63 |
| Power Plant | \$9,615.28 |
| CyRide | \$5,438.11 |
| Water Meter | \$881.68 |
| Total | \$113,464.70 |

To accommodate the lead time to obtain the wireless access points, under this contract the City will only purchase the equipment. The wiring and installation of the wireless access points will be completed under a separate contract. Staff is preparing the specifications for the installation work, which is estimated to cost approximately \$20,000. The installation work will be funded through budgeted IT equipment replacement funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Carrier Access IT, LC, Clive, IA, for the network wireless access points in the amount not to exceed \$113,464.70.
2. Reject the quotations and do not proceed with the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purchase of the wireless access points is necessary to replace outdated components and improve the performance and capacity of the wireless system. The upgrade to the City's infrastructure will provide better reliability on the wireless system for City departments and to the citizens who frequent our facilities. Additionally, much needed additional access points will provide efficiency to City operations.

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