

ITEM#: 17
DATE: 7-27-21

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) ENTERPRISE LICENSE AGREEMENT (ELA) RENEWAL

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames has made a considerable investment in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies including the necessary software. The City uses ArcGIS as its primary GIS software platform and has numerous server and desktop and web applications deployed throughout the organization. ArcGIS is developed and distributed by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) of Redlands, CA.

In fiscal year 2009/2010, the City reached a tipping point in ArcGIS software expenditures which justified transitioning from a standalone licensing model to an Enterprise (unlimited) Licensing Agreement (ELA). Since that time the City appropriates \$50,000 annually for ESRI software licensing. The current 3-year contract expires in September 2021 and thus requires reauthorization to continue licensing through 2024.

The baseline ELA annual contract cost for 2021-2024 has increased \$5,000 per year, from \$50,000 to \$55,000. This represents the first cost increase since the contract was initiated in 2009. Furthermore, City departments have since purchased additional software licenses for products not included in the ELA. Those costs are now included in the proposed 3-year agreement bringing the total contract cost to \$199,500 over a 3-year term (\$66,500 per year). The ELA expenses are appropriated across Departments in proportion to use. Therefore, the annual cost has increased by \$11,500.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council can reauthorize the Enterprise Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute of Redlands, CA for a term of 3 years at a rate of \$66,500 per annum.
2. The City Council can decide not to enter into a 3-year GIS software license agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). This action will result in restricted licensing and a more costly annual GIS software expenditure. Or, as an alternative, the City could seek other GIS software solutions. However, this option would require a substantial conversion and alternative vendors are extremely limited.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approving the Enterprise Licensing Agreement with Environmental Systems Research Institute will continue to allow the City to leverage existing software expenditures and provide for unlimited licensing. Doing so provides a cost-effective way to facilitate Information management and sharing across the organization and extend these tools to the public.

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