

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR POWER PLANT FIRE RISK MITIGATION**

BACKGROUND:

Fire risk mitigation is important to the operation of power plants to ensure employee safety and to protect equipment. The fire protection standards of today are more rigorous than the requirements when the Power Plant was originally built. The City's insurance carrier has made several loss prevention recommendations for the Power Plant. To address fire risks and possible equipment loss events, staff is pursuing a contract with a consulting engineering firm to provide fire protection engineering, contract administration, and possible field installation oversight for the Power Plant.

The Capital Improvements Plan includes planned fire protection improvements to various systems within the Power Plant. Staff has determined that the projects in this plan will address the most pressing needs for fire protection upgrades within the Power Plant.

This contract will allow the Power Plant to hire an engineering firm with fire protection expertise to act as the Owner's Engineer/Designer/Representative for various fire risk mitigation studies, for the preparation of specific fire systems design and specifications, and for fire system installation management, inspection, and testing. Staff will utilize this contract to prioritize our plans with the insurance company to achieve the most value and protection for the dollar. Council should note that the selected engineering firm will not be allowed to contract for any part of the actual fire protection system installation.

Anticipated areas of study and projects include: 1) smoke alarm installation in different areas of the Power Plant; 2) quick hydrogen purge system for Unit 7 and Unit 8; and 3) installing containment and protection under both turbine-generators to contain an oil leak. The design and engineering services for these projects will occur over several years.

On April 18, 2022, a Request for Proposals (RFP) document was posted to the IonWave electronic bidding site by Purchasing. On May 16, 2022, Purchasing received one proposal from Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO, which was then sent to staff for evaluation. After review, staff recommends that a contract be awarded to Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO, for an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Payments would be calculated on unit prices for actual work performed. Funding is available from the 2022/23 Capital Improvements Plan in the Power Plant Fire Protection System Project.

This contract will be for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This contract also includes provisions that allow it to be renewed for up to four additional twelve-month periods for a total contract length of not more than five years. Renewal periods are at the City's option and are contingent upon approval by the City Council. Staff believes that consistency in the engineering firm for the next several years will be advantageous in keeping contractors accountable for implementing the engineered work.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, MO, for the Professional Services for Fire Risk Mitigation in an amount not to exceed \$50,000. The contract includes a provision that would allow the City to renew the contract for up to four additional one-year terms.
2. Reject the proposal and ask staff to solicit proposals for upcoming projects individually, thus delaying the engineering for all the projects.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary for fire risk mitigation (fire detection, alarm, & suppression) to protect personnel and critical plant equipment. If not done, a loss event resulting from a fire could be catastrophic because of possible injury to personnel and the production of electricity could be halted. It is cost-effective for the Power Plant to have a company under contract to provide these services because of their specialized knowledge of current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code requirements and of mitigation equipment currently utilized in this industry.

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