

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: AWARD CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022-23 and 2023-24 FOR THE EMERALD ASH BORER RESPONSE PLAN**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for managing all trees within the parks, cemeteries, and right of ways. Part of those responsibilities include overseeing the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response Plan which was approved by City Council in 2014. The FY 2022/23 includes funds for ash tree removal, stump removal, treatment, and replanting. Staff recently received bids for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24 of the plan which included tree removal, stump grinding, treatment, and replanting. **While the bids were submitted on a unit cost basis, the evaluated bids shown below are based on estimated quantities listed in the RFP.**

**Tree Removal**

<b>Successful Bidder:</b>	<b>FY 2022/23</b>	<b>FY 2023/24</b>	<b>Total</b>
Arborpro Tree Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa	\$32,070	38,270	<b>\$70,340</b>
Pitts Lawn and Tree Service, Huxley, Iowa	\$32,200	\$39,500	<b>\$71,700</b>
Family Tree Care, LLC., Windsor Heights, Iowa	\$38,490	\$45,660	<b>\$84,150</b>

**Stump Grinding**

<b>Successful Bidder:</b>	<b>FY 2022/23</b>	<b>FY 2023/24</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pitts Lawn and Tree Service, Huxley, Iowa	\$3,000	\$3,270	<b>\$6,270</b>
Arborpro Tree Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa	\$5,568	\$6,069	<b>\$11,637</b>
Family Tree Care, LLC., Windsor Heights, Iowa	\$9,600	\$10,464	<b>\$20,064</b>

**Treatment**

<b>Successful Bidder:</b>	<b>FY 2022/23</b>	<b>FY 2023/24</b>	<b>Total</b>
Family Tree Care, LLC., Windsor Heights, Iowa	\$38,528	No Treatment	<b>\$38,528</b>
Arborpro Tree Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa	\$49,536	No Treatment	<b>\$49,536</b>

### Tree Replacement

Successful Bidder:	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	Total
ALPHA Landscapes, LLC., Slater, Iowa	\$29,050	\$24,900	\$53,950

**The FY 2022/23 Right-of-Way Emerald Ash Borer budget has \$200,038. The total of the low bids for the four work activities equals \$102,648.**

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Award contracts for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan to the following companies:
  - a. Arborpro Tree Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa for Ash Tree Removal in the amount not to exceed \$70,340
  - b. Pitts Lawn and Tree Service, Huxley, Iowa for Stump Grinding in the amount not to exceed \$6,270
  - c. Family Tree Care, LLC., Windsor Heights, Iowa for Treatment in the amount not to exceed \$35,528, and
  - d. Reject bid from ALPHA Landscapes, LLC., Slater, Iowa for Tree Replacement
  
2. Award contracts for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24 for the Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan to the following companies:
  - a. Arborpro Tree Service, Fort Dodge, Iowa for Ash Tree Removal in the amount not to exceed \$70,340
  - b. Pitts Lawn and Tree Service, Huxley, Iowa for Stump Grinding in the amount not to exceed \$6,270
  - c. Family Tree Care, LLC., Windsor Heights, Iowa for Treatment in the amount not to exceed \$35,528, and
  - d. ALPHA Landscapes, LLC., Slater, Iowa for Tree Replacement in the amount not to exceed \$53,950.
  
3. Reject all bids and rebid at a future time.

### **CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Since 2014, staff has removed over 1,300 right of way ash trees. There are approximately 400 ash trees remaining. Over the last year staff has really seen a decline in ash trees in the right of way as well as private property. More than ever, it is important to stick to the plan and continue to remove and replace ash trees in order to sustain the amount of tree canopy within the City as well to ensure residents are safe while utilizing public roadways and sidewalks.

The bids received for tree removal, treatment , and tree replacement are over twice as much as the previous bid that was awarded in FY 2020/21. However, staff is seeing higher prices for other contract services over the past few months. There are sufficient funds available to complete the program for FY 2022/23. However, staff feels awarding a contract for tree replacement at this time would not be prudent because the cost per tree is more than twice as much as the current contract and, with only one bid, it is not possible to determine if this lone bid represents the best cost.

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