

ITEM #: 40
 DATE: 02-14-23
 DEPT: Electric

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: FURNISH 69kV AND 161kV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKERS

BACKGROUND:

On January 10, 2023, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for Furnishing 69kV and 161kV SF6 Circuit Breakers. The project is to procure (6) 69kV SF6 circuit breakers to: 1) replace two existing obsolete oil-filled circuit breakers at the Mortensen Road Substation, 2) obtain two new breakers as part of a planned project at the Ontario Road Substation, and 3) purchase two spare 69kV and one 161kV breakers for Electric Services' inventory, which will be kept on hand for the emergency replacement of a breaker in the event of a breaker failure. The Engineer's estimate for six 69kV breakers was \$450,000. **Staff attempted to obtain a 161kV breaker as part of this bid, but did not receive responsive proposals, as detailed below.**

Bid documents were issued to ten firms and two plan rooms. The bid was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and a Legal Notice was published on the websites of a contractor plan room service with statewide circulation and the Iowa League of Cities.

On February 1, 2023, two bids were received as shown below for six breakers:

BIDDER	69KV BREAKERS	161KV BREAKER
GE Grid Solutions, Inc. Charleroi, PA	\$407,070.00	Non-Responsive
WESCO Distribution, Inc. Des Moines, IA	\$789,740.25	Non-Responsive

All bids for the 161kV breaker were considered non-responsive because the breakers did not meet City specifications. Staff plans to re-bid at a later date for the 161 kV breaker.

GE Grid Solutions submitted additional terms and conditions along with its bid for the 69kV breaker. **Due to these additional terms, staff needs additional time to review the bids before a recommendation can be made to Council. The review will ensure that the added conditions do not pose any unnecessary risk to the City.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the report of bids and delay award for the SF6 Circuit Breakers.
2. Award the contract to the apparent low bidder.
3. Reject the bids and direct staff to rebid.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This equipment is necessary to complete the projects at the specified substations. This project will help move customer loads off the Power Plant bus and will help to limit exposure of the Power Plant bus to distribution faults, thereby improving Power Plant reliability. Installing modern, programmable relays and updated controls in these locations can improve long-term reliability by eliminating the obsolete and maintenance-intensive electromechanical relays and aged, lengthy control circuits that are no longer accessible for repair. These projects are necessary for Electric Services to continue providing safe, reliable, service to the customers in the City.

Staff needs additional time to evaluate the submitted terms and conditions to ensure there is minimal risk posed to the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.