

ITEM #: 22
DATE: 04-23-24
DEPT: ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: SPECIALIZED WET DRY VACUUM, HYDRO BLAST, AND RELATED CLEANING SERVICES - CONTRACT RENEWAL

BACKGROUND:

The Power Plant's two gas-fired, high-pressure steam generation units are referred to as Units No. 7 and 8. These units require regular professional maintenance and repair. This consists of emergency service, as well as regularly scheduled planned repairs and services during scheduled outages. The cleaning and special preparation of the boiler surfaces on these generation units require professional tradecrafts and maintenance experts.

Both units operate under environmental conditions with high heat and high pressure, resulting in slag and other industrial debris coating the boiler and other plant equipment surfaces. Prior to repair and maintenance work, it is necessary to have the surfaces professionally cleaned using high-pressure water jets and vacuums.

In order to clean the surfaces, outside contractors are hired to provide mobile high pressure generator trucks with hoses and lances to cut through and wash away the industrial debris coatings. These same firms have the industrial vacuum trucks that can accumulate and contain this industrial debris for proper disposal. The goal of this contract is to meet these requirements in the most economical manner.

On May 23, 2023, Ames City Council awarded a contract to HTH Companies, Inc. of Union, Mo, for Specialized Wet Dry Vacuum, Hydro Blast, and Related Cleaning Services. The contract includes an option that would allow the City to renew the contract for up to four additional one-year terms. This is the first of four additional renewal contract periods.

The City Council should note that the rates which will be charged by HTH Companies, Inc. will increase by 3%, as indicated in their bid document.

Staff recommends that these services continue to be outsourced on an annual renewable contract basis. The benefits of having a contract for these services in place include the following:

1. Consistency of work and quality from a single contractor.
2. Reduction in the City's exposure to market forces regarding prices and availability for labor, travel, and supplies in preparation for a scheduled outage.
3. Rapid contractor mobilization to start emergency repairs, thus reducing generation downtime.
4. Saved City staff time obtaining quotes, evaluating bids and preparing specifications and other procurement documentation.

The approved FY2024/25 Power Plant operating budget includes \$200,000 for miscellaneous cleaning services to be performed under this contract. Invoices will be based on contract rates for time and materials for services actually received.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the contract renewal with HTH Companies, Inc., Union, MO, for Specialized Wet Dry Vacuum, Hydro Blast, and Related Cleaning Services for the one-year period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.
2. Reject the renewal option and instruct staff to seek new competitive bids.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary to ensure that a qualified professional firm will respond to both scheduled and emergency needs for these specialized cleaning services, and will also control costs by having established billing rates. Funds will be expended only as work is required and in accordance with approved invoices. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as stated above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[HydroBlasting 24-25 Rates.xlsx](#)