

ITEM #: 15  
DATE: 07-09-24  
DEPT: PW

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:       FY 2023/24 AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WILDLIFE FENCE PROJECT)**

**BACKGROUND:**

The FY 2023/24 Airport Improvement Program includes the installation of a barrier fence to limit animal crossings at James Herman Banning Ames Municipal Airport. This essential safety project is to mitigate animal strike risks and restrict unauthorized access to runways and taxiways with minimal disruption to airport operations (see attached maps for project extents).

City Council approved contracting with Bolton & Menk to perform the preliminary design, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, final design, and construction administration. The project team has held several design meetings with the FAA, various airport stakeholders, and adjacent landowners. Bolton & Menk has developed the final plans and specifications, with the project work split into three Divisions based on funding eligibility:

- Division 1 - This includes all Federal funding eligible items. Bids will be solicited for two fencing type alternatives: 1) an eight-foot chain link with animal skirting, and 2) an eight-foot welded wire mesh style with animal skirting. Chain link is more secure, but is more costly.
- Division 2 - This includes a small portion of fence along S. Riverside where a drainage way crosses in front of Runway Approach 13 and to avoid a costly extensions of the culvert the fence alignment must leave the Airport property onto City ROW. The FAA will not fund improvements off Airport property.
- Division 3 - This includes motorizing two gate access points with access control. This item is not eligible for Federal aid under the proposed grant funding, but can be paid for with State funds (from the Iowa DOT).

The table below summarizes the revenues and expenses for this project:

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b><i>Funding Source:</i></b>		<b><i>Professional Services:</i></b>	
Federal	\$2,965,140	CATEX (environmental review)	\$77,000
State	\$45,024	Design & Construction Services	\$307,600
Airport Improvements Fund (previously budgeted)	\$218,000	Project Admin	\$5,400
Airport Improvements Fund (from available balance)	\$130,516	<b><i>Construction:</i></b>	
		Division 1 - Base Bid	\$2,700,000
		Division 1 - Alt A (all chain link)	\$204,600
		Division 1 - Alt B (all chain link with PVC coating in Terminal area)	\$8,580
		Division 2 - Base Bid (non-participating items)	\$7,800
		Division 3 - Base Bid (motorize two gates)	\$47,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,358,680</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,358,680</b>

Staff has confirmed with the Finance Department that the additional Airport Improvement Funds are available and can be allocated to this project.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve plans and specifications for the 2023/24 Airport Improvements Program (Wildlife Fence Project) and establish a letting date of Tuesday, July 30, 2024, and the date for the report of bids on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.
2. Do not approve this project.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Wildlife Fence Project is expected to greatly improve safety at the Airport, preventing wildlife from entering critical areas and reducing the need for annual removal efforts. This proactive approach aligns with best practices in aviation safety and will enhance the overall operational effectiveness of the facility. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

[Ames Airport Wildlife Fence.pdf](#)

[Wildlife Fence - Terminal Area.pdf](#)