

ITEM #: 19  
DATE: 09-10-24  
DEPT: P&R

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: FURMAN AQUATIC CENTER POOL CHEMICALS - CHANGE ORDER NO. 1**

**BACKGROUND:**

On February 27, 2024, City Council approved an agreement with Carrico Aquatic Resources Inc., of Oelwein, IA, to lease chlorination equipment at the Furman Aquatic Center. This new system uses solid chlorine briquettes instead of liquid chlorine. **The conversion provides for increased safety, lower costs, and standardization of equipment at the City's aquatic facilities.**

**The lease provides the City with the feed systems (valued at approximately \$23,200) at no charge for the 2024 season, and after the 2024 season is complete, the equipment becomes property of the City. However, the City must purchase a minimum supply of 5,000 lbs. of chlorine briquettes, which is the amount estimated to be necessary for the 2024 season of operation. The estimated cost of the chlorine briquettes was approximately \$20,900. A purchase order was written for \$20,864 which included the briquettes and freight cost.**

The minimum order of 5,000 lbs. of chlorine briquettes was an estimate given to staff from Carrico Aquatics for the 2024 pool season. However, after operating the new equipment with the chlorine briquettes for the 2024 season, staff had to purchase more briquettes to complete the season. Prior to ordering additional briquettes, staff spent \$18,496.52 leaving a balance of \$2,367.48 on the PO. In order to complete the 2024 season, staff ordered an additional \$14,278.73 worth of briquettes, adding \$11,911.25 to the original purchase order of \$20,864. **Since the additional cost is greater than 20% of the original contract value, City Council approval is required. Current funding available for pool chemicals in the FY 2024/25 budget is \$26,600. Staff have spent \$6,390 in pool chemicals for FY 2024/25.**

**Staff is pleased with the solid briquette chlorine system compared to the liquid chlorine system that was previously used. Even though the costs of the solid briquettes are more than liquid chlorine, the new system requires less than half of the carbon dioxide needed to reduce pH, resulting in a \$4,500 savings compared to the 2023 swimming season. Also, purchases of other chemicals (i.e. sodium bicarbonate, calcium, stabilizer) needed to balance the water have been reduced. Another benefit is chlorine briquettes do not lose their efficacy when stored for long periods of time, unlike liquid chlorine. Staff has approximately 500 lbs. leftover from this season which will be used for startup next season. Lastly, this new system requires less maintenance and has helped improve air quality in the mechanical room, creating a less caustic and safer working environment for staff.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$11,911.25 to Carrico Aquatic Resources Inc., of Oelwein, IA, for additional pool chemicals.
2. Do not approve the requested change order.
3. Refer back to staff.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**The solid briquette chlorine disinfection system is a safer and more efficient system for staff to operate. Even with the increased cost of the briquettes, other chemical inputs have been reduced like carbon dioxide, stabilizer, and calcium, resulting in clearer water for patrons.** Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.