

ITEM #:	<u>24</u>
DATE:	<u>09-23-25</u>
DEPT:	<u>ELEC</u>

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: LINE CLEARANCE FOR 69KV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONSTRUCTION
VET MED SUBSTATION TO MORTENSON SUBSTATION**

BACKGROUND:

Electric Services is undertaking a multi-year project to reconstruct deteriorated portions of 69 kV Transmission pole lines. The project is starting with the line between the Vet Med and Mortensen Road Substations. This line segment travels through a dense number of trees located north of Highway 30, both east and west of University Blvd. To ensure reliability of the line and to gain access for construction, trees need to be trimmed and cut back.

The first phase of the work to reconstruct the line is scheduled to begin in six weeks. The trimming must take place along the route prior to the start of construction. Unfortunately, it was not possible to receive all the necessary ISU and DOT approvals for the route until recently, leaving a short time window to have the tree work completed.

Electric Services currently holds an annual contract with Wright Tree Service of Des Moines, IA. Wright Tree Service maintains clearances on the City's current overhead distribution system. **Wright Tree is very busy performing the current trimming requirements and does not have the resources to take on the additional work within the next six weeks.**

Electric staff sought price quotes from companies that could both perform the large amount of clearing and also be available to complete the work before the end of October. Robb's Tree and Stump Service of Story City, Iowa is available on short notice. The company has the necessary equipment needed and can complete the job within the times required. Robb's Tree and Stump Service provided a fixed price of \$55,000.

Using the pricing from the current annual trimming contract with Wright Tree Service, staff estimated it would cost \$60,000 to perform the work. At \$55,000, staff feels the fixed price from Robb's Tree and Stump Service to be a fair price. Funds for this project will come from the 69kV Reconstruction Capital Improvement Project where there is \$75,000 available to perform the tree trimming.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Waive the Purchasing Policies and Procedures requirement for formal bidding procedures and award a contract to Robb's Tree and Stump Removal, Story City, Iowa, for line clearance for the 69kv Transmission Line Reconstruction in the amount of \$55,000.
2. Reject the bid and instruct staff to seek competitive bids.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To gain access for the 69kv reconstruction project, trees need to be trimmed and cut back. This work needs to be performed in the next several weeks to keep the construction of the project on schedule. Robb's Tree and Stump Removal has sufficient equipment and personnel to complete the project in a timely manner, and the fee proposed is reasonable in comparison to the contract in place with another contractor for annual tree trimming and line clearance. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.