

ITEM #:	34
DATE:	05-12-26
DEPT:	ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: 13TH AND GRAND POWER LINE RELOCATION

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department plans to widen the intersection of 13th Street and Grand Avenue in the 2027 construction season. To allow the reconstruction to occur in a manner that limits the disruption to traffic and property owners at this busy intersection, Public Works has requested that public and private utility companies relocate their facilities that conflict with the project during the 2026 construction season.

To accomplish the relocation of Ames Electric facilities, an outside contractor will be hired to supply labor, equipment, and materials to relocate the power poles. Private communication company attachments on the City's power poles will be relocated or buried at the individual communication company's expense. The Electric Department has contracted with DGR Engineering, Rock Rapids, IA to develop plans and specifications to relocate several power poles for this upcoming project.

On March 24, 2026, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for the 13th & Grand Power Pole Relocation project. An Invitation to 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. On April 29, 2026, four bids were received as shown below.

BIDDER	TOTAL COST
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$700,000</i>
IES Commercial Inc. Holdrege, NE	\$527,595.56
Michels Power, Inc. Neenah, WI	\$567,410.41
Altitude Energy Keenesburg, CO	\$670,000.00
Ward Electric Company, LLC Longmont, CO	\$1,327,918.21

Staff reviewed the bids and determined that the low bid from IES Commercial Inc, of Holdrege, NE, is acceptable.

The FY 2026/27 Capital Improvements Plan contains \$100,000 for this work in the Streetlight and Line Relocations project. Previously, a sizeable balance of funding for this relocation work had been accumulated and carried over, but this funding was dropped when it was not clear when the project would occur.

To address the shortfall in funding, Electric worked with Finance to move CIP funding around during final budget amendments. Some of these projects were complete and had savings; a couple project will be reprogramed, allowing for funds to be moved to the 13th and Grand Power Line Relocation project: A list of the projects and available funding is included in the table below.

Funding Source	Revenues	Expenses
2025/26 Streetlight & Line Relocation CIP	\$ 36,000	
2026/27 Streetlight & Line Relocation CIP	100,000	
EV Charging Stations	75,000	
Street Light LED Retrofits	21,981	
Electric Dist. Locker Room	107,300	
Electric Dist. Storage Building	94,771	
CT 1 Failure	80,684	
Power Plant Fire Protection	250,000	
Engineering		36,000.00
Construction (this action)		\$ 527,595.56
TOTAL	\$ 765,736	\$ 563,595.56

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve final plans and specification and award a contract to IES Commercial, Inc. of Holdrege, NE, in the amount of \$527,595.56.
2. Award this project to another bidder.
3. Do not proceed with the project at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

For Public Works to begin the reconfiguration of the 13th Street and Grand intersection, the Electric Department will need to move its electric infrastructure in the vicinity. To meet Public Works' planned project schedule and avoid a delay in their 2027 construction window, Electric Services needs to accomplish its work in 2026. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as stated above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ltr - Rec Award Const 419441.pdf](#)