

ITEM #:	33
DATE:	07-14-26
DEPT:	W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE (VFD) AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

BACKGROUND:

The Ames Water Treatment Plant (WTP) utilizes high service pumps to deliver finished water into the water distribution system for use by customers. High service pumps are started and stopped based on the water demand in the distribution system and level of water in the elevated storage tanks. The high service pumping facilities at the plant include surge valves that relieve pressure caused by pumps being turned on or off. **Staff identified the installation of a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) as a key improvement due to the ability of a VFD to allow pumps to accelerate and decelerate water pressure, limit pressure swings, and keep desired set points.**

On June 10, 2026, the City issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) #2026-153 seeking a qualified contractor to provide and install a VFD and perform all associated electrical, controls, and SCADA integration work required for operation of the pump through the existing plant control system. The project includes furnishing and installing the VFD, electrical equipment, programming, startup services, staff training, documentation, and as-built drawings.

The bid closed on July 1, 2026. One bid was submitted, as summarized below:

Bidder	Lump Sum Bid
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	\$67,580
Electric Pump, LLC, Des Moines, IA	\$60,250

Electric Pump submitted a responsive bid and identified Automatic Systems Company of Ames, Iowa, and NAI Electrical Contractors of Ames, Iowa, as subcontractors for the project. The contractor has proposed a project start date of August 12, 2026, with completion anticipated by August 26, 2026. Staff has reviewed the bid and determined that it is acceptable.

Carryover funds for this project are available from the Water and Pollution Control Department Capital Improvements Plan (Water Plant Facility Improvements, \$81,000, originally shown in the FY 2024-2029 CIP).

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Electric Pump, LLC of Des Moines, IA for the High Service Pump Variable Frequency Drive Installation Project at the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$60,250.
2. Do not award a contract and direct staff to rebid the contract.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The installation of a Variable Frequency Drive on High Service Pump D will improve operational flexibility and enhance the reliability of water delivery from the Water Treatment Plant. Staff has determined that the bid submitted by Electric Pump, LLC is acceptable and that Electric Pump is capable of completing the work in accordance with the project requirements. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1, as described above.