

ITEM #:	17
DATE:	08-11-26
DEPT:	W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR HAULED WASTE RECEIVING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND:

The current Hauled Waste Receiving System (HWRS) at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) has several operational limitations that restrict the facility's ability to reliably receive and process large volumes of hauled waste. The existing system is served by a gravel access drive with inadequate maneuvering space for larger trucks and trailers and at times is unusable due to weather. Limitations in storage capacity and material handling further constrain operations. Increasing the storage capacity, improving automation, and adding redundant pumping capabilities will allow the WPCF to safely and efficiently manage greater volumes of hauled waste while improving reliability for private haulers.

Hauled waste received at the WPCF contributes to increased biogas production within the anaerobic digester complex. The resulting biogas is utilized on-site by methane generators and a dual-fuel boiler. These systems provide heat necessary for biosolids treatment and generate electricity that currently offsets approximately 20 percent of the facility's electrical demand.

On February 23, 2026, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering Services for Hauled Waste Receiving System Improvements. Proposals were accepted through March 12, 2026. Two firms submitted proposals which were reviewed and evaluated by Water & Pollution Control Department staff.

Each proposal was independently evaluated based on the firm's relevant experience, project understanding, availability, proposed design approach, and project schedule. Once the technical evaluations were completed and a composite score established, staff opened and reviewed the fee proposals. A summary of the evaluation is shown below:

Respondent	Technical Proposal Composite Score	Fee Proposal
Strand Associates, Inc.	440	\$217,000
HDR Engineering, Inc.	404	\$389,787

Following review of the technical proposals and fees, staff identified Strand Associates, Inc. as the firm providing the best overall value to the City. Strand Associates received the highest technical score and submitted the lower fee proposal.

Staff subsequently negotiated with Strand to further define the services necessary. The negotiated scope includes Preliminary Design, Construction Permitting, and Final Design services. During the negotiation process, additional preliminary design activities were identified by staff (evaluate net present worth and operational considerations of above-grade stainless steel storage tanks versus below-ground concrete vaults; evaluate different heating system alternatives; evaluate mixing system alternatives; add support for geotechnical services to be hired by the City) and were added to the scope of work. **As a result, the negotiated contract amount increased from \$217,000 to \$239,300.**

The City and Strand anticipate negotiating a future task order for Bidding Phase Services, Construction Phase Services, and Project Closeout Services. The scope and cost for these services will be more accurately defined upon completion of Final Design. Additionally, staff intends to use the base contract terms as a "Master Agreement" with Strand that can be utilized for an unrelated task order for the design of a third lime slaker at the Water Plant. That agreement is anticipated to be presented to Council sometime in September.

Funding for the project is included in the Capital Improvements Plan (Cogeneration System Maintenance, FY 2025/26 - \$225,000; FY 2026/27 - \$1,500,000). Hauled waste revenue received in FY 2025/26 was \$314,847.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract to Strand Associates, Inc., of Ames, Iowa, in the amount of \$239,300 to provide engineering services for the Hauled Waste Receiving System Improvements project.
2. Direct staff to negotiate a contract with the other proposing firm.
3. Reject all proposals and provide direction to staff regarding next steps for the project.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Hauled Waste Receiving System at the Ames Water Pollution Control Facility has become a limiting factor in the City's ability to efficiently receive and process larger volumes of hauled waste. The proposed improvements will enhance operational safety, increase system reliability for private haulers, improve processing capacity, and support additional biogas production for beneficial on-site use.

Staff conducted a Request for Proposals process consistent with the City's purchasing policies and identified Strand Associates, Inc. as the firm offering the best overall value based on qualifications, project approach, and cost.

A mutually acceptable scope and fee have been negotiated for the engineering services necessary to advance the project. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[4429.023.Signed SAI.pdf](#)