



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#15-1243

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: November 3, 2015

TITLE: Motion to Approve On-Line Information Management System - Backflow
Solutions Inc. - \$127,463 (Revenue)

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the proprietary purchase agreement from Backflow Solutions Inc. (BSI) Online for the purpose of tracking backflow assemblies, in substantially the form attached.

Background

BSI Online is a patented program and web-based application that will serve as the City's tracking and compliance software package for the recertification of 3,977 testable backflow assemblies. These assemblies are part of the Cross Connection Control Program required by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The cost to the City is \$495 per yearly subscription fee. The service is anticipated to generate \$178,965 in revenue, of which the vendor will receive approximately \$51,502 and the City will be receiving the remaining approximate amount of \$127,463.

The following is a description of BSI's services:

- **Database Setup:** All existing City testable backflow assemblies will be added to the BSI Online database by BSI staff. This information is garnered from the City's existing database and past test reports, as well as any additional backflow data discovered during inspections and surveys.
- **Notifications:** BSI will send written notifications via U.S. Mail (postage paid, letters sent with the City's logo) to water customers informing them of their backflow testing requirements. BSI Online sends multiple notices, which are all 100% customizable. BSI Online also includes the company name and contact information for the last tester of record on each notification. In addition, the program keeps a real-time, detailed log of all notices sent and has the capability of allowing the City to produce additional, customized letters on our behalf.

- Data Entry: All test reports for existing or replacement backflow assemblies are entered by the backflow tester via the BSI Online program. BSI Online requires all information to be filled in, eliminating incomplete test reports and automatically verifies whether the test is passing or failing per Florida state standards.
- Testing Company: The system also provides a real-time, color coded dashboard for tracking all applicable licenses and certificates to maintain quality control and integrity of the program. In addition, the contractors are able to access past test report history and receipt transactions within the system.
- Security: All customers are protected by an individual confirmation number that keeps their information private. Data is backed up multiple times a day on separate, offsite servers which utilize the most up-to-date firewalls and system protections.
- Reporting: The City will have complete and unfettered access into the system. Real-time data will always be accessible 24/7/365. The City will be able to view the backflow information for all our customers using our own real-time dashboard. The dashboard will assist in tracking the companies working in the City and allow us to immediately view all failed backflow assemblies, as well as to view a real-time non-compliant report. In addition, there is the availability of customizable reports directly in the system with the ability to continually customize additional reports based on our ever changing needs. All the reports are exportable into excel spreadsheets for additional use.
- Neighbor Service: BSI will handle all neighbor service issues and questions from water customers and testers via their 24-hour, 800 customer service numbers. This includes assistance with BSI Online, statutory and code questions, technical plumbing and fire protection questions, as well as general neighbor inquiries. Our neighbors will speak to a live person who can answer their questions, and will never be directed to automated menus.

BSI has been in business for over 15 years and their specialty and only business is cross connection control compliance. They have several hundred accounts in 25 states and 2 countries. They currently have 15 accounts in Florida, including Hallandale Beach, Broward County, Pompano Beach, Davie, Coconut Creek, and Boca Raton. Because of their presence in the South Florida community, the plumbing community is familiar with the way BSI operates.

This change in program administration should lessen the strain on existing resources and by partnering with a company that has a proven track record, recertification should be obtained quicker. It will also help ensure protection of the water supply which is the Cross Connection Control Program's purpose and help the City be in compliance with FDOH and FDEP. The City will still administer the installation and enforcement components of the program.

Pursuant to Section 2-189, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the City may purchase proprietary items, as defined in Section 2-173, without the necessity of public bids. As defined by the Code, a proprietary item is not readily available from more than one supplier, manufacturer, or person and is unique in nature. The basis for this proprietary purchase is the patent (US 8,463,823 B2) dated July 11, 2013 assigned to Backflow Solutions Inc. (BSI) for "Methods and Systems for Tracking Backflow Assemblies." On October 14, 2014 the Procurement Division issued a Notification of Intent to Award a proprietary purchase to a national vendor community via BidSync.com, under Bid #257-11516. Statements of disagreement with the proprietary recommendation were to be sent to the Procurement Division by October 24, 2014. No statements were received by that date.

Resource Impact

There will be a current fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$495 and a positive fiscal impact to the City in the estimated amount of \$127,463 as revenue generated for the City to administer the program requirements in FY 2016. Per Chapter 28-153(e) (3) of the Backflow Ordinance, a \$45 backflow recertification administration fee is to be paid for each backflow assembly at the same premises. This fee is in lieu of the permitting fees that were previously required for recertification. BSI will receive \$12.95 of the \$45 to provide the services listed in the background. The net difference of \$32.05 for each device will be generated as revenue to sustain and manage the program.

<i>Funds available as of October 1, 2015</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AMOUNT RECEIVED (Character)	AMOUNT
450-PBS690602-J299	Water & Sewer Environmental Resources	Charges for Services/Backflow	\$ 248,708	\$ -	\$ 127,463
TOTAL →					\$ 127,463

ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
450-PBS690602-3299	Water & Sewer Environmental Resources	Services/Materials/ Other Services	\$ 297,157	\$ 297,157	\$ 495
TOTAL →					\$ 495

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 2: Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective 2: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road and bridge infrastructure.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Ready*.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Agreement

Prepared by: James Hemphill, Finance
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Department Directors: Paul Berg, Public Works
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