



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

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

DATE: October 7, 2014

TITLE: Motion to approve the proprietary purchase of water meter shut-off
services - \$48,000

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve the proprietary purchase of water meter shut-off services in the estimated annual amount of \$48,000 from Bermex, Inc. and authorize execution of the agreement for water meter shut-off services in substantially the form attached. Bermex, Inc. is the current vendor for providing meter reading services for the City selected through a competitive process. It is recommended to have one contractor performing meter reading and meter shut-off services.

Background

On May 5, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection codified revisions to the Florida Administrative Code under Chapter 62, Section 555.360 concerning cross-connection control for water utilities. The City has evaluated its Cross-Connection Control Plan and is expanding the program from 3,000 to approximately 15,000 water service accounts based on the new criteria outlined in the Florida Administrative Code. Another change is to enhance enforcement efforts and the provision of the City's Code Sec 28-156 where noncompliance will result in water shut-off. Approximately 1,250 water service accounts per month will be noticed. The cross-connection control program's compliance level is estimated to be 80% resulting in 250 additional shut-offs per month. Due to the newness of the program, the initial months may be higher due to new programmatic compliance elements.

This is a public health and safety issue associated with the City's drinking water system. It is important to have resources available to perform these shut-off services in a timely manner and in compliance with regulatory requirements. Due to existing workloads, the current staff that performs turn-ons and turn-offs for non-payment will not be able to meet this demand. Employees will be shifted to perform turn-ons so the turn-off effort may be contracted out. The meter reading services are being provided by Bermex, Inc. Since the City does not employ sufficient internal staff resources to keep up with the

shut-off demand and Bermex, Inc. is already in the field reading the meters, they are the reasonable source to provide the shut-off services for the City.

The Code of Ordinances, Section 2-173 states that a proprietary item or service means any item or service essential to the day-to-day operation of the City government and when time is of the essence. In order to become compliant with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, time is of the essence.

Staff has compared the price being offered to the City of Fort Lauderdale with the price being paid by another Broward County city using the services of Bermex and found that Fort Lauderdale is being offered a price that is \$0.75 lower for each shut-off.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$48,000.

Funds available as of October 1, 2014					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (PROGRAM)	OBJECT CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Object Code)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Object Code)	PURCHASE AMOUNT
450-PBS010101-3299	PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTORS	SERVICES& MATERIALS/ OTHER SERVICES	\$442,530	\$442,530	\$48,000
PURCHASE TOTAL ►					\$ \$48,000

Strategic Connections:

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

- Goal 2: Be a sustainable and resilient community.
- Objective 1: Proactively maintain our water, wastewater, road and bridge infrastructure.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Quote

Exhibit 2 - Agreement

Prepared by: Robert McKenney, Procurement Specialist II
Elizabeth Cohen, Administrative Assistant I

Department Director: Hardeep Anand, P.E., Public Works