



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

#26-0694

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

FROM: Christopher Cooper, Acting City Manager

DATE: August 18, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving an Agreement for Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. 617-2 for
Water Meter Reading and Related Services - Bermex, Inc. - \$2,606,864.28
- **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve an agreement, in substantially the form attached, for Invitation to Bid (ITB) No. 617-2 for Water Meter Reading and Related Services with Bermex, Inc., for an initial one (1)-year contract term in the estimated amount of \$2,606,864.28; and authorize the City Manager to execute said agreement and approve two (2) additional one (1)-year renewal options in the estimated annual renewal amount of \$2,606,864.28, for a potential total contract amount of \$7,820,592.84.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale owns and operates approximately 65,169 mechanical, potable water meters ranging from 5/8 of an inch to sixteen (16) inches in diameter. The City is currently transitioning from manual meter reading to smart water meters through the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program. The AMI program is intended to modernize the City's meter reading operations by allowing water meters to be read remotely once installation and system deployment is complete in 2027. During the transition period a significant number of meters will continue to require manual readings until they are fully converted to AMI.

The City previously solicited meter reading firms to provide meter reading and related services, including individual meter reading, meter shut-off due to non-payment, and reconnection of services. Accurate and timely meter readings are essential to the City's utility billing process and directly support revenue collection for the Water and Sewer Fund. Without adequate meter reading support during the AMI transition, the City may experience delays or inaccuracies in customer billing, which could impact customer service, revenue generation, and overall utility operations.

Although the City's manual meter reading needs are expected to decrease as AMI deployment progresses, continued contractual support is necessary to maintain accurate and timely billing during the implementation period. Presently, the City does not have sufficient staffing capacity to manually read the volume of remaining non-AMI meters.

Awarding a contract to an external vendor will allow the City to continue providing reliable meter reading and related services while the AMI system is being fully deployed. This contract will serve as a transitional operational support measure, ensuring continuity of meter reading services, accurate utility billing, and effective revenue collection until the City's AMI implementation is complete and manual reading is no longer required at the same level.

On May 6, 2026, the City, via the Procurement Services Department, issued ITB No. 617-2 for Water Meter Reading and Related Services. The scope of work required bidders to provide pricing per meter read with the understanding that the number of meters to be read will be reduced during the term of the contract due to the ongoing AMI installations. Due to the uncertainty regarding the exact number of meters that will be replaced monthly, the original number of meters prior to the AMI conversion was multiplied by twelve (12) months to establish the estimated annual contract value for bid tabulation purposes.

The following addendums were issued:

- Addendum No. 1 – On May 20, 2026, the Question and Answer (Q&A) deadline was extended until May 22, 2026. As a result, the bid due date was changed until May 28, 2026. All other terms, conditions and specifications remained unchanged.
- Addendum No. 2 – On May 26, 2026, the following language in Section 3 of the solicitation was removed: "Marking" of Meters Using Global Positioning System (GPS). All other terms, conditions and specifications remained unchanged.

On May 28, 2026, bids were opened. Three (3) bids were received from the following bidders:

1. Bermex, Inc.
2. Scope Services, Inc.
3. Alexanders Contract Services, Inc

All bids were reviewed for compliance with the solicitation requirements. Bermex, Inc. was deemed the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder and is recommended for award.

Resource Impact

There is a current Fiscal Year (FY) impact to the City in the amount of \$289,651.59. Funding is available in the FY 2026 operating budget within the account listed below. Expenditures in future fiscal years are contingent upon the approval and appropriation of the annual operating budgets.

<i>Funds available as of July 19, 2026</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-450-7304-536-30-3299	Meter Shop	Services/ Materials/Other Services	\$815,181.27	\$524,039.69	\$289,651.59
				TOTAL AMOUNT ►	\$289,651.59

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Infrastructure and Resilience initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 3: Be a sustainable and resilient community.

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

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Sanitary Sewer, Water, and Stormwater Element
- Goal 3: Develop and maintain an adequate water supply, treatment and distribution system, which meets the existing and projected needs of the service area in an efficient, economical, and environmentally sensitive manner.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Solicitation

Exhibit 2 - Bid Tabulation

Exhibit 3 - Agreement

Prepared by: John Torrenga, Procurement Administrator, Procurement Services
 Jamar Wilkerson, Water Distribution Supervisor, Utility Services
 Shamori Aldridge, Assistant to the Director, Utility Services
 Stefan Mohammed, Senior Procurement Specialist, Procurement Services
 Matthew Eaton, Senior Administrative Assistant, Procurement Services

Department Directors: Albert J. Carbon III, P.E., Utility Services
 Glenn Marcos, Procurement Services