



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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: August 20, 2024

TITLE: Motion Rejecting All Bids Pursuant to Invitation to Bid No. 296-1 and Approving an Agreement for the Purchase of Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls Pursuant to Invitation to Bid No. 329 - Aquatics Control Group Inc - \$3,733,500 - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission reject all bids pursuant to Invitation to Bid (ITB) Event No. 296-1 and approve an agreement for the purchase of waterway cleaning and algal controls pursuant to ITB Event No. 329 from Aquatics Control Group Inc (ACG) for an initial three (3) year term in the amount of \$3,733,500 and authorize the City Manager to approve two (2) additional one (1) year renewal options, in the estimated annual amount of \$1,244,500, for a potential total contract amount of \$ \$6,222,500, contingent upon appropriation of funds.

Background

The City has 165 miles of winding navigable waterways, highlighting what makes Fort Lauderdale unique and why it lives up to its designation as the “Venice of America.” The regular maintenance and cleaning of these critical waterways, including lakes, canals, and the Intracoastal Waterway, is a large commitment and requires specialized equipment.

The debris to be removed can be floating, submerged, intertwined within vegetation, or stuck under docks adjacent to a waterbody. These items may be sizable including trees and dock pilings as well as animal carcasses. The vessels and equipment required for cleaning these waterways must be capable of accessing and removing debris from wide bodies of water, narrow or shallow canals, canal ends, and other areas of concern.

Additionally included in this agreement are both chemical and mechanical controls to address potential needs related to the safety and health of our waterways in the event of a waterway spill, algal bloom, or proliferation of aquatic weed or vegetation that negatively impacts our valued aquatic ecosystems. Such services would be event-based and requested only should they be needed following an incident.

On April 29, 2024, the Procurement Services Division issued ITB Event No. 296-1, for the purchase of Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls-Rebid. On May 16, 2024, the event closed and a total of one (1) bid submission was received.

Before the award by Commission, it was brought to the attention of staff that a specified commodity code was not used during the bidding process and the system did not electronically notify all potential bidders. While the email notification process is a mere courtesy afforded to all registered suppliers, there is no legal obligation for the City to provide this type of service; and per Section 21-181 of the City’s Procurement Ordinance, it is only required for public notice of an ITB by publishing it on the City’s website for a reasonable period prior to bid opening or to response due date.

Nevertheless, the ITB was resolicited using additional commodity codes in the City’s best interest to maximize competition. On July 3, 2024, the Procurement Services Division issued ITB Event No. 329, for the purchase of Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls-Rebid. On July 24, 2024, the event closed and a total of three (3) bid submissions were received and one (1) no-bid was received.

None of these firms listed their status as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise.

ACG has met all the solicitation requirements and is deemed the low, responsive, and responsible bidder.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$90,469 for this agreement. Funds in the amount of \$90,469 are available in the FY 2024 Operating Budget in the account listed below. Expenditures for future years are contingent upon approval and appropriation of the annual budgets.

| Funds available as of July 25, 2024 | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ACCOUNT NUMBER | COST CENTER NAME (Program) | CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME | AMENDED BUDGET (Character) | AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character) | AMOUNT |
| 10-470-7342-538-30-3199 | Stormwater Maintenance | Services/Materials/ Other Professional Services | \$1,752,275 | \$907,372 | \$90,469 |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ► | | | | | \$90,469 |

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2024 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Places initiative.

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

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

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

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

- The Infrastructure Focus Area
- The Solid Waste Management Element

- Goal 1: The City of Fort Lauderdale shall provide or maintain solid waste management and collection programs to serve current and future needs; and
- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Conservation Element
- Goal 1: Protect and monitor water resources to improve quality and quantity.
- Goal 3: Conserve, protect, and appropriately utilize the City's terrestrial and marine habitats.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Solicitation

Exhibit 2 - Bid Tabulation

Exhibit 3 - Agreement for Waterway Cleaning and Algal Controls

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