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Department of Utilities
Water Treatment Facility
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TO: Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee

CC: Public Works Director Paula Vandehey

FROM: Utilities Director Chris Shaw

DATE: March 6, 2020

RE: *Award America’s Water Infrastructure Act Project to AECOM in the amount of \$43,500 with a 15% Contingency of \$6,525 and total cost not to exceed \$50,025*

BACKGROUND:

The Appleton Water Utility (AWU) is required to perform a risk and resiliency assessment of the water utility in 2020. This assessment is a requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The law was promulgated under the America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). The AWIA relies on industry performance standards that must be adhered to by the AWU. Moreover, the utility has a genuine interest in compliance and utilizing the information garnered to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the utility.

This recommendation proposes an AWIA assessment that will expand from previous assessments where only malevolent acts were considered. This broader approach critiques the utility’s current ability to respond to multiple scenarios. Assessment requirements will include natural hazards (e.g., tornado, flooding, power outage), biological, chemical, and cybersecurity vulnerability.

The AWU has assembled an AWIA project team that is comprised of staff from Utilities, Public Works, Health, and IT. Other city staff involvement will be necessary at a later date (e.g., Police and Fire).

ENGINEERING PROPOSALS:

There is a significant skill set that is required in order to perform this type of assessment. Engineering firms generally use project teams in order to cover areas where team members are subject matter experts (e.g., cybersecurity, biological threat assessment, etc.). As such, the team sent Request for Proposals (RFPs) to two engineering firms with experience and work product that favors their past and recent work product with the AWU. The first firm, AECOM, recently completed the AWU Distribution Master Plan. Their firm has also provided an AWIA workshop for the team members. The second firm, McMahon, completed a prior Vulnerability Assessment and was the design engineer for the Appleton Water Treatment Facility.

Both engineering firms produced proposals that have been reviewed and graded. Proposal evaluators graded each firm’s project understanding, team members, firm resources, as well as value added propositions. The review team found that both AECOM and McMahon provided proposals that met the City’s requirements and would produce the desired deliverables. RFQ. The results of the review and proposal costs are listed in the table below.

| Engineering Firm | Proposal Score | Project Fee | Value Score |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| AECOM | 74 | \$43,500 | 147 |
| McMahon | 64 | \$73,400 | 101 |

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Utilities Committee award America’s Water Infrastructure Act Project to AECOM in the amount of \$43,500 with a 15% Contingency of \$6,525 and total cost not to exceed \$50,025

If you have any questions regarding the project please contact Chris Shaw at 832-2362.