



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
Wastewater Treatment Plant
2006 East Newberry Street
Appleton, WI 54915
p: 920-832-5945
f: 920-832-5949

www.appleton.org/government/utilities

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 31, 2024
To: Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee
From: Chris Stempa, Utilities Director
CC: Ryan Rice, Utilities Deputy Director
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Account Manager
Subject: **Finance Committee Action: Award “AWWTP Mix Liquor Channel Blower Replacement Project” Base Bid Plus Alternative to Sabel Mechanical, in the amount of \$392,100 with 15% contingency of \$58,815 for a project total not to exceed \$450,915**

BACKGROUND:

The Appleton Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) operates two early 1990's vintage positive displacement rotary lobe blowers which supply low-pressure air to a network of submerged diffusers located within the mixed liquor channel. These diffusers are designed to create turbulence within flow and keep solids in suspension. The channel aeration blower equipment was commissioned as part of a major upgrade project in the early 1990's and has proven to be reliable for over 30 years of operation. However, it has reached its useful life and one of the blowers now requires replacement. The 2024 CIP identified \$600,000 in total funding that will implement a project that would replace existing aeration equipment with present-day blower technology.

BIDS

The bidding documents were formulated with two different blower equipment options. The Base Bid work consisted of providing new two (2) dual lobe positive displacement blowers, piping, insulation, and controls. The alternate bid Alternate Bid also consisted of the same Base Bid work but specified two (2) trilobe positive displacement blowers instead of the dual lobe positive displacement blowers. The trilobe blowers are more energy efficient option compared to the positive displacement blowers and include an integral prefilter that is intended to extend useful life. However, these units do come with a higher upfront cost than the dual lobe blowers.

On May 30, 2024, the city opened and reviewed the bids from four contractors which are summarized in the Table 1. Each bid met the submittal requirements with Sabel Mechanical being the least cost responsible bidder regardless of the award scenario (Base Bid or Base Bid plus Alternative). Sabel Mechanical has successfully completed project work for the Department of Utilities in the past.

Table 1: ML Channel Blower Replacement Project Bid Tab Summary

Company	August Winter & Sons	Rhode Brothers, Inc.	Sabel Mechanical	Staab Construction Corporation
Base Bid	\$385,400	\$384,000	\$355,000	\$393,000
Alt Bid	\$38,200	\$35,000	\$37,100	\$30,000
Base Bid+Alt	\$423,600	\$419,000	\$392,100	\$423,000

RECOMMENDATION:

I am requesting an award of the “AWWTP Mix Liquor Replacement Project” base bid plus the alternate to Sabel Mechanical in the amount of \$392,100 with 15% contingency of \$58,815 for a project total not to exceed \$450,915.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this project, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-5945.

Encl: Bid Tab and Recommendation