



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
Water Treatment Facility
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www.appletonwi.gov/government/departments/utilities

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 2025
To: Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee
CC: Assistant City Attorney Darrin Glad
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Accounting Fund Manager
From: Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities
Subject: **Information: Appleton Water Treatment Facility Bulk Hypochlorite Tank Replacement Tank Purchase Awarded to GPI Corporation in the amount of \$179,540**

BACKGROUND:

A special Finance Committee meeting was held on February 5, 2025 to approve a resolution that would allow for the emergency replacement of three 11,000-gallon fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) bulk storage tanks. Tank manufacturers typically expect up to 15 years of life when storing 12.5% sodium hypochlorite in an FRP tank before relining is necessary to restore the interior protective coating layers. Inspections revealed leaks from each of the original (2001) bulk storage tanks over the past year with that number and leak severity increasing even after these tanks were relined.

Following emergency authorization being granted, Utilities Department management worked with McMahon to generate plans and specifications for replacement bulk tank system. It was critical that the new tank design conformed with the spatial limitations and challenges presented by a fully operational chemical room. The tank dimensions (height and width) were decreased to avoid removing existing chemical lines, electrical, communication wiring, and/or concrete masonry walls. The change from the original design decreased bulk tank capacity from 11,000 gallons to 5,230 gallons. That was required to provide the flexibility needed to facilitate the tank replacement work without incurring extensive additional costs otherwise required to relocate or remove existing infrastructure. The new design required the number of bulk tanks to increase from three to four to maintain the volume of net bulk storage required to sustain treatment operations for at least 30-days. The modified tank design still provides 40 days of effective storage. Additionally, the new chemical storage tanks will be installed in the existing chemical containment area of the existing tanks which substantially reduces costs.

DNR AUTHORIZATION AND REQUESTS FOR QUOTATION

On May 12, 2025 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) provided formal approval of the bulk tank replacement plans and specifications submitted by McMahon per s. NR 811.09(3) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. WDNR approval was required before initiating the Request for Quotation (RFQ) process.

The first RFQ process was initiated in mid-May immediately after WDNR approval. However, only two tank manufacturers submitted quotes. Subsequent questions arose regarding the difference in the cost for the two-year warranty and manufacturer references. Therefore, McMahon lead a second RFQ process that was conducted in early July with four (4) quotes received. As outlined in the attached Letter of Recommendation packet, the quotes from the second RFQ process ranged from \$148,526 to \$201,820. The least cost quote submitted by August Fiberglass was considered non-responsive because they failed to provide a list of references.

PURCHASE AWARD:

Based on the RFQ process, GPI Corporation provided the least cost responsive quote for a total of \$179,540. GPI Corporation was the only company that manufactures their FRP tanks in Wisconsin. GPI Corporation provided the AWTF with new fluoride FRP tanks as part of the 2018-2019 Chemical System Upgrades project. Per the resolution granted by the Finance Committee on February 5, 2025, the AWTF has issued a purchase order to GPI Corporation. Funding for the new sodium hypochlorite tank purchase will come from available budget carryover associated with the Corrosion Control project.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-5945.

Encl: Letter of Recommendation and Bid Tabulation



July 24, 2025

Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities
City of Appleton Department of Utilities
2281 Manitowoc Road
Menasha, WI 54952

Re: City of Appleton Department of Utilities
Chemical Tank Replacement Equipment Procurement
Request for Quotation
Letter of Recommendation
McM. No. A0005-09-25-00158

Dear Chris,

On July 23, 2025, quotes were received via email for the above referenced project. Four (4) quotes were received, ranging in price from \$148,526.00 to \$201,820.00 (quotation tabulation enclosed).

August Fiberglass failed to provide a list of references with their quote, so we consider their quote to be non-responsive. Therefore, we recommend awarding the purchase of four (4) new bulk hypochlorite tanks to GPI Corporation as the lowest responsible bidder.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

McMahon Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Voogt".

Donald J. Voogt, P.E.
Vice President / Senior Project Manager

DJV:jlh

Enclosures: Bid Tabulation



QUOTATION TABULATION

Owner: City of Appleton Department of Utilities
Project Name: Chemical Tank Replacement
 Equipment Procurement – Chemical Tanks
Contract No. A0005-09-25-00158
Bid Date: July 23, 2035
Bid Time: 2:00 p.m., local time
Project Manager: Donald J. Voogt, P.E.

Contract No. A0005-09-25-00158	AUGUSTA FIBERGLASS 86 Lake Cynthia Road Blackville, SC 29817	GPI CORPORATION 101 Northern Road / PO BOX 140 Schofield, WI 54476-0140
Quotation Amount	Tanks \$113,336.00	Tanks \$176,340.00
	Shipping Estimate \$8,580.00	Shipping Estimate \$3,200.00
	Warranty \$26,610.00	Warranty Included
	Total \$148,526.00	Total \$179,540.00

Contract No. A0005-09-25-00158	HAWKINS, INC. 1882 Morris Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935	FIBERGLASS SOLUTIONS, LLC 995 Waube Lane Green Bay, WI 54304
Quotation Amount	Tanks \$182,700.00	Tanks \$196,880.00
	Shipping Included	Shipping Estimate \$4,940.00
	Warranty Unknown	Warranty Unknown
	Total \$182,700.00	Total \$201,820.00