



DEPARTMENT OF  
**UTILITIES**

**Department of Utilities**  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
2006 E Newberry Street  
Appleton, WI 54915  
920-832-5945 tel.  
920-832-5949 fax

[www.appleton.org/government/utilities](http://www.appleton.org/government/utilities)

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 15, 2025  
**To:** Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee  
**CC:** Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities  
Kelli Rindt, Enterprise Accounting Fund Manager  
**From:** Ryan Rice, Deputy Director of Utilities  
**Subject:** **Finance Committee Action: Award Sole Source Contract to Groome Industrial Services for WWTP Hydroblasting service in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.**

---

### BACKGROUND:

The Appleton wastewater treatment plant (AWWTP) accepts lime softening residuals from the Appleton water treatment facility (AWTF) which are primarily calcium carbonate. The residuals are transported via forcemain between plants and enter the WWTP at the head of the liquid treatment train where it comingles with influent wastewater from the city sewerage collection system. The comingled waste stream flows through preliminary treatment and then enters the primary clarification process where heavier solids like lime residuals settle out and are pumped into the anaerobic primary digesters with the settled primary sludge.

The residuals continue through the solids treatment process until the digested sludge is dewatered by belt filter press. The dewatered sludge is stored in the sludge storage building and the filtrate water from the belt filter press is captured and piped to the filtrate storage tank for flow equalization before entering the aeration process of the liquid treatment train (approximately 1,200 feet of 12-inch diameter and 10-inch diameter pipe).

The calcium carbonate in the digested sludge forms lime scale on the dewatering equipment and inside the filtrate piping/tank. The progressive formation of lime scale slowly restricts flow through filtrate piping which must be removed every one to two years to maintain effective treatment operations. The primary method of removal is by 10,000 PSI water jetting of the piping, also known as hydroblasting.

The 2025 AWWTP budget approved by Common Council included \$30,000 for contracted hydroblasting service.

### PROPOSAL:

Groome Industrial Services provided a quote for hydroblasting services for 2025 with a daily (8 hour) rate of \$2,550.00.

### JUSTIFICATION:

Groome (formerly known as H2O Underpressure) has the equipment and experienced personnel necessary to perform this work and successfully performed hydroblasting in 2024 and was asked to provide a quote for hydroblasting in 2025. Groome has consistently been the least cost quote when hydroblasting service has been solicited and their rate quoted for 2025 hydroblasting service is unchanged from the rate quoted in 2023 and 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

I am recommending the award of a sole source contract to Groome Industrial Services for hydroblasting service in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Ryan Rice at 920-832-5945.

**Encl:** Finance Department Sole Source Request Form