



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
Water Treatment Facility
2281 Manitowoc Rd.
Menasha, WI 54952
p: 920-997-4200
f: 920-997-3240

www.appleton.org/government/utilities

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 19, 2026
To: Chairperson Brad Firkus and Members of the Finance Committee
CC: Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities
John Pogrant, Water Operations Supervisor
Jeri Ohman, Finance Director / Enterprise Accounting Fund Manager
From: Ryan Rice, Deputy Director of Utilities
Subject: **Action: Award sole source purchase of Rockwell Automation/Allen Bradley Variable Frequency Drive equipment to Werner Electric in the amount of \$203,197**

BACKGROUND:

The 2026 Appleton Water Treatment Facility (AWTF) budget approved by Common Council included funds for replacement of variable frequency drive (VFD) equipment associated with lime sludge pumps, ultraviolet (UV) feed pumps, and high lift service pumps (HLSP). Four lime sludge pumps are used to transport lime softening sludge to the wastewater treatment plant. Five UV feed pumps can be called upon to provide water to the UV disinfection system based on demand. Six high lift service pumps (HLSPs) convey treated water from the plant into the City's water distribution system. These critical assets are needed to maintain treatment processes and distribute finished water to city residents, industry, and wholesale customers.

VFDs provide the ability to effectively and efficiently ramp pump speed up and down based on demand needs within the process systems they're installed. The anticipated life expectancy of VFDs is dependent on a variety of factors including the equipment size and voltage, amount of run time, operating environments (dry and clean versus damp and dusty), level of preventative maintenance, and quality of installation. Similar sized VFDs at AWTF have been operating for up to 20 years without failure. However, 20 years are approaching the top end of medium voltage VFD equipment like that of the pumps listed.

The VFD equipment planned for replacement in 2026 includes: two lime sludge pumps, two UV feed pumps, and one HLSP, which were installed in 2001 during construction of the plant. The VFD associated with one of the UV supply pumps failed in 2024 and required replacement. Due to manufacturing lead times of approximately 20 weeks, these critical pieces of equipment cannot be quickly replaced. Although redundancy exists to maintain

uninterrupted treatment operations, replacement of remaining 2001-vintage VFDs in both the UV feed pump and HLSP systems was planned before additional failures occur.

QUOTATION

Werner Electric was asked to provide a quotation for replacement VFDs compatible with the existing Rockwell Automation/Allen-Bradley equipment for lime sludge pumps, UV feed pumps and High Lift Service Pumps. The cost of the new Rockwell Automation Allen-Bradley VFD equipment totals \$203,197.

JUSTIFICATION

Werner Electric is the authorized regional distributor of Rockwell Automation/Allen Bradley electrical equipment.

FUNDING SOURCE

This contract amendment will be funded through the 2026 "MCC/Drive Replacement UV Pump" CIP which totals \$260,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

I am recommending the approval of sole source purchase of Rockwell Automation/Allen Bradley variable frequency drive (VFD) equipment to Werner Electric in the amount of \$203,197.

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

Encl: Finance Department Sole Source Request Form