CITY OF APPLETON

Department of Parks & Recreation
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TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Tom Flick

DATE: 09/02/2026

RE: **Action: Award the Fox Cities Exhibition Center Sound Mitigation Project contract to Cardinal Construction Co., Inc. for the Base Bid and Alternate 1 in the amount of $521,570, with a contingency of 10 percent for a total project cost not to exceed $573,727.**

BACKGROUND

The City allocated $985,000 in ARPA funding for improvements to the Fox Cities Exhibition Center, with sound mitigation identified as the facility's most significant operational need. Addressing this issue is important to improving the experience for event organizers and attendees, strengthening the facility's competitiveness as a regional event venue, supporting repeat bookings, and contributing to its long-term success.

To date, $358,100 has been used for new carpeting, the purchase of a forklift, and professional consulting services, leaving a balance of $626,900 for construction of the sound mitigation project.

The acoustics within the exhibition halls are not ideal for many types of events. Sound reverberation within the large open spaces can reduce speech intelligibility and the overall quality of amplified sound. Improving the acoustics will make the halls more functional for conventions, presentations, meetings, and other events.

The Base Bid will install four-inch-thick acoustical panels along the perimeter walls of the exhibition halls. Alternate 1 will install acoustical ceiling panels in one of the three event spaces. Together, these improvements will absorb sound and reduce reverberation, improving the overall acoustic environment for future events.

BID RESULTS

The bids were received as follows:

- **Cardinal Construction Co., Inc.: Base Bid $251,331; Alt. 1 $270,239; for a total of $521,570**
- Miron Construction Co., Inc.: Base Bid $254,675; Alt. 1 - $314,804; for a total of $569,479

Cardinal Construction submitted the lowest Base Bid and the lowest combined bid for the Base Bid and Alternate 1.

The recommended contract amount is $521,570. With a 10 percent contingency of $52,157, the total project cost will not exceed $573,727. This leaves a remaining project balance of $53,173.

Alternates 2 and 3, which would add acoustical ceiling panels in the other two event spaces, are not recommended for award because there is insufficient funding to complete this additional work while maintaining an appropriate construction contingency. The remaining areas may be addressed through a future project as funding becomes available.

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the bids and recommends awarding the Base Bid and Alternate 1 to Cardinal Construction Co., Inc.

Therefore, staff recommends awarding the Fox Cities Exhibition Center Sound Mitigation Project contract to Cardinal Construction Co., Inc. for the Base Bid and Alternate 1 in the amount of $521,570, with a contingency of 10 percent to be utilized as needed, for a total project cost not to exceed $573,727. This amount remains within the available project funding.

Please feel free to contact me at (920) 832-3915 with any questions, or by email at tom.flick@appletonwi.gov.