

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 02/25/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0185

LOG NAME: 20SWM STRATEGIC PLANNING

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of Amendment No.1 in an Amount Up to \$800,000.00 to an Engineering Related Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols Inc., for the Revised Contract Amount of \$895,900.00 for the Development of a Stormwater Management Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize execution of Amendment No. 1 in an amount up to \$800,000.00 to the Engineering Related Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc., (City Secretary Contract No. 61571), for a revised contract amount of \$895,900.00, for the Development of a Stormwater Strategic Plan (City Project No. 105637).

DISCUSSION:

The agreement recommended by this Mayor and Council Communication will provide professional engineering services for the development of a Stormwater Strategic Plan. As the Stormwater Utility is reaching its twenty-year anniversary, the strategic planning effort will determine the best ways to accomplish the Stormwater Program's mission in a way that aligns with City Council Strategic Goals and is in the best interest of the community. The effort will identify stakeholder priorities, assess Stormwater Program needs and service gaps, estimate future funding needs and recommend a corresponding funding strategy, and prepare a business case justification for funding needs and a roadmap of implementable actions to close gaps. The strategic effort will also assess the current functions and structure of the Stormwater Program to identify and make recommendations for possible optimization opportunities.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a variety of drainage engineering services was published in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on July 29, 2021 and on August 5, 2021. Based on the results of the RFQ, Freese and Nichols, Inc., was selected as the most qualified consultant to perform this work based on published selection criteria.

On June 17, 2024, an administrative contract (City Secretary Contract No. 61571) for \$95,900.00 was authorized with Freese and Nichols, Inc. to kick off the initial strategic planning effort. The initial contract focused on determining current and anticipated future strategic planning drivers, defining objectives and constraints, and gathering data and feedback from City staff, Stormwater Program Stakeholders, councilmembers, and multiple City departments, to inform and make recommendations for next steps and help determine the ultimate scope and budget for the overall strategic planning effort.

Freese and Nichols Inc., proposes to perform the scope of work on an on-call time and materials basis for a fee in an amount up to \$800,000.00. The City will issue individual task orders to authorize the consultant to perform work under this Agreement until such time the contract funds in the amount of up to \$800,000.00 have been expended. City staff considers this fee to be fair and reasonable for the anticipated services to be performed.

This contract will include a wide array of professional services, such as comprehensive data collection, stakeholder engagement, benchmarking, and the development of advanced analysis tools. These efforts will support ongoing program management and enable the City to continuously refine its strategies and operations. The task order approach ensures that the services provided remain aligned with the City's evolving priorities, stakeholder feedback, and emerging challenges throughout the contract period. Task orders will be issued by the City to define specific scopes of work, deliverables, compensation, and schedules. Key elements of the strategic plan include:

1. Defining current and future program responsibilities to align with emerging challenges such as climate change, regulatory shifts, infrastructure modernization, and evolving community needs.
2. Conducting in-depth assessments to optimize operations, staffing, and resource allocation, ensuring cost-effective and efficient program delivery.
3. Developing forward-thinking strategies for funding needs, including rate studies, business case justifications, and identification of alternative funding sources such as grants.
4. Preparing a phased implementation roadmap, including near-term, mid-term, and long-term steps, to enhance program efficiency, adaptability, and resilience in the face of future challenges.

This contract will not result in any additional annual operating cost for the Transportation and Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Division.

Business Equity Office – The Business Equity Division placed a 5.27% business equity goal on this solicitation/contract. Freese and Nichols Inc., has agreed/committed to utilize 5.27% business equity subcontractor participation for the scope of work, meeting the City's Business Equity Ordinance. Any changes in subcontractors will be reviewed by the Business Equity Division.

This project is located in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current capital budget, as previously appropriated, in the Stormwater Capital Projects Fund for the SW Program Strategic Planning project to support the approval of the recommendation and execution of the agreement. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Transportation and Public Works Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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