

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/31/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0227

LOG NAME: 60BIOSOLIDS_SOFTWARE

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Vendor Service Agreement with Automation Nation, Inc. in an Annual Amount Up to \$485,045.00 for Software Licensing, Maintenance, Technical Support, and Professional Services to Manage the Treatment Process of Sludge in the Biosolids Operation at the Water Department's Village Creek Reclamation Facility

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the execution of a Vendor Service Agreement with Automation Nation, Inc. in an amount up to \$485,045.00 for software licensing, maintenance, technical support, and professional services of the Zenon Software Platform used to manage the treatment process of sludge in the biosolids operation at the Water Department's Village Creek Reclamation Facility.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor & Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize execution of a Vendor Service Agreement with Automation Nation, Inc. now that Fort Worth is no longer in a transitional period for biosolids processing at Village Creek. This agreement will provide software licensing, technical support, maintenance, and professional services for the Zenon Software Platform used to operate and control the sludge process in the biosolids operation at the Village Creek Reclamation Facility. Automation Nation, Inc. is the sole distributor of the Zenon software platform in Texas, and will deliver essential operations and maintenance services necessary to monitor and control every aspect of the sludge process to meet and sustain established operating standards. Software control over biosolids processing is also necessary to prevent a public health hazard caused by a backup of wastewater sludge.

The City of Fort Worth operates the Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility ("Village Creek") which converts sewage sludge to biosolids. Sewage sludge is continuously created as part of the wastewater treatment process. Until April 4, 2025, the City had a contract with Synagro of Texas-CDR, Inc. to manage the City's biosolids processing and disposal operations at Village Creek. However, through M&C 25-0281, the Fort Worth City Council authorized the termination of the City's contract with Synagro of Texas-CDR, Inc.

As part of the transition of biosolids processing to the Fort Worth Water Department, the Water Department entered into Fort Worth City Secretary Contract 63055, an emergency contract, with Automation Nation, Inc. to provide its Zenon software platform to operate and control the sludge process. The term of Fort Worth City Secretary Contract 63055 will expire on April 3, 2026.

Funding is budgeted in the General Operating & Maintenance category in the Water & Sewer Fund for the Water Department.

PRICE ANALYSIS – The Water Department has reviewed the pricing and determined it fair and reasonable.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER - An administrative change order or increase may be made by the City Manager in the amount up to maximum allowed under state law and the City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

AGREEMENT TERMS - Upon City Council approval, the initial term of this Contract will commence upon the date the City's Vendor Service Agreement is signed by the Assistant City Manager and expires one year therefrom.

RENEWAL OPTIONS - The City shall be able to renew this agreement at the City's sole discretion for four (4) additional one-year renewal terms. This action does not require specific City Council approval provided that the City Council has appropriated sufficient funds to satisfy the City's obligations during the renewal term.

This project is located in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds are available in the current operating budget, as previously appropriated, in the Water & Sewer Fund to support the approval of the above recommendation and execution of the contract. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Water Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds.

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