

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 06/09/26

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 26-0409

LOG NAME: 84NEWSBANK, INC. AGREEMENT 2026

SUBJECT

(ALL) Authorize Execution of a Sole-Source Vendor Services Agreement to Provide Digital Library Services with NewsBank, Inc. in an Amount Up to \$175,173.00 for an Initial One-Year Term with Annual Renewal Options and Ratification of Previous Agreement Renewals

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize execution of a sole-source vendor services agreement to provide digital library services with NewsBank, Inc. in an amount up to \$175,173.00 for an initial one-year term with unlimited annual renewal options and ratification of previous agreement renewals.

DISCUSSION:

This Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) requests authorization to execute a sole-source vendor services agreement with NewsBank, Inc. to provide access to news databases including America's News, HeritageHub, and various historical newspapers.

NewsBank, Inc. uniquely hosts and administers a proprietary website designed for libraries that contains select years of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Dallas Morning News*, *San Antonio Express-News* and other newspapers, as well as historical newspapers and documents for genealogical research. NewsBank is the sole distributor licensed to provide portions of the Library Department's electronic content, including select years of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and the Texas Historical Archive under City Secretary Contract No. (CSC) 040795 (originally approved by M&C C28336 on August 15, 2017). Council authorized the 2017 Subscription Service Agreement and five additional one-year terms at the City's option. That agreement has been subsequently renewed annually for the maximum number of allowable terms (five) with the last term ending June 30, 2023 as outline in Renewal No. 6. Ordinance No. 24161-04-2020 provided authorization to execute Renewal No. 7 during the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.

The last two agreement renewals (CSC 040795-R8 and CSC 040795-R9) and corresponding expenditures require ratification by City Council because they occurred after the expiration of five renewal terms authorized by Council and Ordinance No. 24161-04-2020.

A new vendor services agreement is needed to continue the services provided by NewsBank, Inc. and the ratification sought herein ensures that any gaps in authorization related to prior renewals is addressed.

Funding is budgeted in the Information Tech Supplies account within the General Fund for the Library Department.

AGREEMENT TERM: Upon City Council approval, this agreement shall begin upon execution and have unlimited renewal options.

RENEWAL OPTIONS: This agreement may be renewed annually for unlimited one-year terms at the City's option. 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.

EXEMPT PROCUREMENT: The City Attorney's Office has determined that this sole-source is exempt from competitive bidding under the provisions of Chapter 252 of the Texas Local Government Code due to the unique services provided by and only available from this vendor.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE ORDER: An administrative change order to increase the amount of the future agreement renewals may be made by the City Manager up to the amount allowed by relevant law and the Fort Worth City Code and does not require specific City Council approval as long as sufficient funds have been appropriated.

This will serve ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that funds were available in the operating budget of the General Fund for the Library Department to support ratifying previous agreement renewals and expenditures, and funds are available in the current operating budget to support the above recommendations and execution of the contract. Prior to any expenditure being incurred, the Library Department validated and will validate the availability of funds.

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