

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

40290

Agenda Number

18.

Meeting Date:

February 26, 2015

Department:

Purchasing

## Subject

Authorize award and execution of a 36-month contract with TEXAS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED INDUSTRIES, INC. to provide for right-of-way and orphan property maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$1,250,001, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$416,667 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,500,002.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$243,056 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of the Austin Code Department. Funding for the remaining 29-months of the original contract period and extension options are contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

## Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing  
Language:

Exemption – Blind or disabled

Prior Council  
Action:For More  
Information:

Georgia Billela, Buyer II, 512-974-2939.

Boards and  
Commission  
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program as specified in Texas Local Government Code Chapter 252.022.

## Additional Backup Information

This contract will provide for the clearing of illegal dump sites, mowing of high vegetation areas, and removal of debris on neglected private properties. It will also provide for maintenance of City-owned rights-of-ways in locations where an owner cannot be identified (orphan property) and it is unreasonable to require adjacent property owners to maintain them. These services are a result of the Code Enforcement Division taking a more attentive and aggressive approach to citizen requests concerning City code violations on private and public properties. The remediation of City code violations are required due to transient camps, drug house activities, curbside and alley violations, increased citizen complaints requiring property cleaning and property maintenance, identified right-of way safety hazards due to high grass and weeds, and public pressure to maintain City-owned property along Austin roadways.

Texas Industries for the Blind and Handicapped Industries, Inc. (TIBH), in conjunction with Easter Seals of Central Texas, has performed this service for the past 24 years. Their dedication, experience, and timely performance demonstrate their qualifications to continue right-of-way and orphan property clearing.

TIBH serves as a broker to locate and administers contracts for non-profit organizations. Easter Seals Central Texas Workforce Development Program personnel will perform the work and receive 94% of the funds. TIBH will receive the remaining 6% of the funds to cover administration costs. This contract will provide jobs to individuals who would otherwise need public assistance if this work program were not available.

State law allows political subdivisions to substitute services available from blind or disabled persons for those which could be purchased from private business without securing competitive bids (Texas Human Resources Code, Section 122.017 and Texas Local Government Code Section 252.022(a) (13)). Comparison of TIBH pricing in past years has shown them to be at or below those of the private sector.