



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1369, **Agenda Item #:** 20.

4/8/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with Asplundh Tree Expert LLC, or the other qualified offeror to Request for Proposals 1100 EAL3013, to provide vegetation management services on transmission energized lines, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$17,500,000.

(Note: This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program and subcontractor goals were applied to the solicitation. The recommended contractor provided sufficient evidence of Good Faith Efforts and the resulting contract will include 0.61% MBE/WBE combined participation).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$8,750,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

The Purchasing Office issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) 1100 EAL3013 for these services. The solicitation issued on September 7, 2020 and it closed on October 27, 2020. Of the two offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the best evaluated responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a log of offers received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online. Link: [Solicitation Documents](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134392)
<https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134392>.

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall continue to direct inquiries to the solicitation's Authorized Contact Person: Liz Lock, at 512-322-6251 or Liz.Lock@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Liz.Lock@austintexas.gov>>.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

March 8, 2021 - Recommended unanimously by the Electric Utility Commission on a 6-0 vote, with

Commissioner Hadden off the dais, Commissioners Funkhouser, Reed and Wray absent, and one vacancy.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide vegetation management services on transmission energized lines for Austin Energy. The contractor will perform services on an as needed basis for capital improvement program projects; on circuit, grid, and substation facilities; individual customer requests; trouble work or storm restoration events; and vegetation suppression. This work is highly specialized. The contractor will be required to follow standard processes which include notice of work and herbicide use and follow strict safety protocols. The contractor will also work in partnership with the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Asplundh Tree Expert LLC is the current provider for these services. The current contract expires August 12, 2021.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Asplundh Tree Expert LLC as the best to provide these services based on program, experience and qualifications, price, local preference, and service-disabled veteran business enterprise.

Contract Detail:

<u>Contract Term</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>	<u>Contract Authorization</u>
Initial Term	2 yrs.	\$ 7,000,000
Optional Extension 1	1 yr.	\$ 3,500,000
Optional Extension 2	1 yr.	\$ 3,500,000
Optional Extension 3	1 yr.	\$ 3,500,000
TOTAL	5 yrs.	\$17,500,000

Note: Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government That Works for All.