



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2336, **Agenda Item #:** 97.

7/29/2021

Posting Language

Ratify contracts with DRC Emergency Services, LLC and Tetra Tech Inc., to provide emergency debris removal and monitoring, in the amount of \$710,000, divided between the contractors.

(Note: These contracts are exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Austin Resource Recovery.

Fiscal Note

Funding was available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of Austin Resource Recovery.

Purchasing Language:

Ratification.

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>> or to Sandy Wirtanen, at 512-974-7711 or sandy.wirtanen@austintexas.gov <<mailto:sandy.wirtanen@austintexas.gov>>.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

July 14, 2021 - Still pending Zero Waste Advisory Commission review due to lack of quorum.

Additional Backup Information:

The unprecedented winter storm of February 2021 left the city of Austin covered in snow and ice for several days. Such brutal cold wreaked havoc on trees and plants throughout the city creating huge amounts of brush needing collection across the city. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) curbside services were halted during the severe winter weather conditions. All ARR services, including street sweeping, recycling, composting, trash, yard trimmings, bulk item, large brush, and dead animal collections were cancelled. This compounded the backlog of material needing to be disposed. Between February 26, 2021 and March 24, 2021, ARR received over 4,400 service requests. With the high volume of requests, ARR was unable to remove the materials in a timely manner due to resource constraints caused by the spring heavy season. Lack of debris removal results in an increased wildfire threat to the community.

Because of this high risk and potential for increased fire activity, the additional fire load established since our recent storms needed to be addressed in an expeditious manner. The magnitude of this downed material created conditions above and beyond our normal risk levels. Due to this, ARR utilized DRC Emergency Services, LLC for post-disaster brush debris removal from public property and public rights-of-way (ROW) within the city limits. The work consisted of all labor, equipment, fuel, and miscellaneous costs necessary to clear, remove, load, and haul debris from public ROW to debris management sites and/or approved landfills.

ARR also utilized Tetra Tech Inc. as a debris monitoring contractor to monitor the recovery efforts and actions of the city's emergency debris removal contractor, DRC Emergency Services, LLC, in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) policies and guidelines. Tetra Tech Inc.'s services included the monitoring of debris collection at the debris management site at Hornsby Bend, the preparation and maintenance of proper documentation for requesting and obtaining reimbursement from FEMA for disaster-related costs, and the reporting of data on equipment use, load eligibility, regulations compliance, public and personnel safety, as well as other related services. The contractor monitored the progress of recovery efforts and assisted with making and implementing recommendations to improve efficiency and maintain compliance.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment; Safety.