



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1935, **Agenda Item #:** 20.

6/9/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of two contracts with Linda Rebecca Johnson d/b/a Arborholic LLC and TreeFolks, Inc. to provide the administration of tree programs and related services, each for a term of five years for total contract amounts not to exceed \$4,000,000 divided between the contractors.

(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. For the goods and services required for this solicitation, there were an insufficient availability of certified M/WBEs; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Development Services Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Watershed Protection Department, Austin Water, Office of Sustainability.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$266,667 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of various City departments. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) 5300 BYS3016 for these goods and services. The solicitation was issued on January 3, 2022, and it closed on February 8, 2022. Of the three offers received, the recommended contractors submitted the best evaluated responsive offers. 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://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=136113.

For More Information:

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall continue to direct inquiries to the solicitation's Authorized Contact Persons: Brenita Wilkison, at 512-974-3164 or Brenita.selement@austintexas.gov [<mailto:Brenita.selement@austintexas.gov>](mailto:Brenita.selement@austintexas.gov) or Al Drayton, at 512-974-2298 or alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov [<mailto:alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov>](mailto:alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov).

Additional Backup Information:

These contracts will provide the administration of the NeighborWoods and the Ready, Set, Plant! programs as well as tree-related carbon credit documentation. It also provides procurement of trees to be planted on public lands and continuing education for green industry professionals to become Certified Arborists. These programs are used to meet the goals of increased canopy cover across the city under Imagine Austin, Austin's Urban Forest Plan, and the Climate Equity Plan. Increased canopy cover is important to reduce urban heat,

improve quality of life, and provide ecosystem services.

These contracts will replace existing contracts that expire on June 29, 2022. Increased authorization amounts were determined based on department program goals, and the determination to contract education programs with outside entities as a cost-effective way to maximize trees planted and cared for by the community while minimizing costs to the City. The recommended contractors are the current providers for these goods and services.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Linda Rebecca Johnson d/b/a Arborholic LLC and TreeFolks, Inc., as the best to provide these services based on project work plan, personnel qualifications, proposer experience, management structure, organizational values, price proposal, local business presence, and service-disabled veteran business enterprise.

If Council does not approve these contracts, the City will struggle in its ability to meet tree canopy goals associated with the City's Climate Equity Plan and Austin's Urban Forest Plan.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Health and Environment, Culture and Lifelong Learning.