



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-1160, **Agenda Item #:** 22.

2/23/2023

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a cooperative contract for communications equipment and related technical support with GTS Technology Solutions, Inc. for up to four years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$550,000.

[Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9D (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the goods and services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Client Department(s)**

Austin Energy.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$118,299 is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Multiple contractors within this cooperative purchasing program were reviewed for these goods and services. The Financial Services Department has determined this contractor best meets the needs of the department to provide the goods and services required at the best value for the City.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to Paula Barriffe, at 512-974-2832 or [Paula.Barriffe@austintexas.gov](mailto:Paula.Barriffe@austintexas.gov) [<mailto:Paula.Barriffe@austintexas.gov>](mailto:Paula.Barriffe@austintexas.gov).

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

January 9, 2023 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Hopkins and Bowen absent and two vacancies.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The contract will provide communications equipment to support Austin Energy's Volt Var Optimization program, which works to reduce and conserve the amount of energy needed to serve customers without changing the quality of service. This contract will provide cellular radios to replace existing advanced metering infrastructure mesh radios and increase the reliability of communications for data acquisition and control signals.

The radios provide Austin Energy operations visibility and situational awareness by bringing information into

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the Advanced Distribution Management System. This increased visibility allows operators to monitor system health and analyze readings for abnormalities to make faster, more informed decisions. The radios allow controls to be sent remotely reducing the number of truck roll outs needed to operate field devices.

The State of Texas Department of Information Resources cooperative establishes competitively bid contracts that can be utilized by the State and other government agencies through a cooperative agreement. Cooperative agreements save taxpayer dollars by leveraging the State's volume-buying power to drive down costs on hundreds of contracts through a streamlined cooperative purchasing program.

**Contract Detail:**

<b><u>Contract Term</u></b>	<b><u>Length of Term</u></b>	<b><u>Contract Authorization</u></b>
Initial Term	1 yr.	\$144,000
Optional Extension 1	1 yr.	\$137,000
Optional Extension 2	1 yr.	\$138,000
Optional Extension 3	1 yr.	\$131,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 yrs.</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>

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

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety, Government that Works for All.