



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2266, **Agenda Item #:** 37.

7/20/2023

Posting Language

Authorize execution of a contract for traffic signal and school zone beacon backup batteries with Kinetics Motorwerks LLC, for a term of five years in an amount not to exceed \$930,000.

[Note: This solicitation 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 required for this solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Transportation and Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$46,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Operating Budget of the Austin Transportation Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

The Financial Services Department issued an Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2400 JRH1057 for these goods. The solicitation was issued on January 9, 2023, and closed on February 21, 2023. Of the 12 offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the lowest responsive offer. A complete solicitation package, including a tabulation of the bids received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online: [Solicitation Documents](#)

https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=138190.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500. Respondents to the solicitation and their Agents should direct all questions to the Authorized Contact Person identified in the solicitation.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract is for the purchase of batteries for traffic signal backup systems and school zone beacons. Since 2011, the City has installed battery backup units (BBU) that utilize 110Ah batteries at approximately 600 traffic signals throughout the City. In the event of a power outage, the traffic signal BBUs allow for traffic signals to switch to battery power and continue to operate for approximately six hours until grid power is restored. This helps improve safety and mobility for the public, emergency medical services, and police response during emergencies. The batteries in these systems have a life span of five years, meaning each year approximately 20% of the BBUs (150 signals) need to have batteries replaced. Each BBU consists of four batteries, meaning

approximately 600 batteries need to be replaced annually. Quantities in the contract were estimated by staff based on these needs.

Additionally, the City maintains more than 300 solar-powered school zone beacons throughout the City which also need 80Ah batteries to be replaced approximately every five years. Quantities in this contract were estimated by staff based on these needs.

This contract replaces two separate contracts, one for 80Ah batteries that expired on April 15, 2023 and a second for 110Ah batteries that expires on November 1, 2023.

If the City is unable to secure a contract, delays may occur causing backup batteries for traffic signals and school zone beacons to become inoperable due to battery failures. Staff will be forced to procure these products on an as needed basis, which may result in higher prices and operational costs.