



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-3288, **Agenda Item #:** 4.

2/1/2024

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of two contracts for tree growth regulator services with Edko LLC and T&S Growth Solutions LLC, each for up to three years for total contract amounts not to exceed \$5,000,000, divided between the contractors.

[Note: This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the services required for this solicitation, 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 \$1,388,889 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) 1100 DCM3019 for these services. The solicitation was issued on May 22, 2023, and closed on June 13, 2023. Of the four 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. This information can currently be found at:

https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=135856

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.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 22, 2024 - To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

These two contracts will provide Austin Energy with tree growth regulator services around utility lines and

within electrical system easements, rights-of-way, substation facilities, and generating plants. Managing vegetation around energized utility lines is critical to ensuring the public's safety. Tree growth regulators are increasingly being integrated into programs across the United States to change the way trees are cared for under power lines, around the power lines, and along right-of-ways. Tree growth regulators can also extend prune cycles on given circuits which can promote safety, which results in fewer opportunities for an incident to occur on circuits as well keeping trees out of power lines.

The contractors will use a variety of methods to suppress vegetation growth in accordance with public safety, environmental, aesthetic, and animal care requirements. The contractors will also notify and discuss with property owners any recommended tree growth regulator applications and/or suppression of vegetation growing within Austin Energy's electrical facilities, utility easements, and rights-of-way.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored Edko LLC, and T&S Growth Solutions, LLC as the best to provide these services based on price, service-disabled veteran business enterprise, local preference, demonstrated applicable experience, and program.