



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-3887, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

2/15/2024

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for an underground feasibility and overhead distribution resilience study with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,725,000.

[Note: This procurement 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 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 \$425,736 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Funding in the amount of \$96,457 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant.

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

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

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.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

February 12, 2024 - To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

This contract will provide consulting services for two studies that will assess the underground feasibility and overhead resiliency of Austin Energy's electric distribution system. This system consists of approximately 7,000 miles of underground lines and 5,000 miles of overhead lines. The awarded contractor will evaluate the system with a goal of identifying potential improvements that will ensure continued delivery of safe and reliable power with a focus on risk management and resiliency.

This contract for the underground feasibility study and the overhead distribution resilience study is a result of

following two initiatives. In March 2023, Council adopted Resolution 20230323-084 directing Austin Energy to study the feasibility of converting existing overhead distribution lines to underground lines. In April 2023, the Federal Energy Management Agency awarded Austin Energy a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant to study the resilience of Austin Energy's overhead distribution system.

Staff vetted a short list of firms for their expertise in this specialized field of study to determine the best value to the City.