



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

---

**File #:** 24-4071, **Agenda Item #:** 10.

3/7/2024

---

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of three contracts for vegetation management around energized distribution lines with Asplundh Tree Expert LLC, Davey Tree Surgery Co., and Wright Tree Service, Inc., each for up to 18 months for total contract amounts not to exceed \$28,000,000, divided among the contractors.

[Note: These contracts are exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program); therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

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

Austin Energy.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$9,700,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Funding in the amount of \$1,100,000 is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

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

### **Purchasing Language:**

Austin Energy is designating this purchase as a Critical Business Need in accordance with Senate Bill 7, as adopted by the City as Resolution No. 040610-02.

### **For More Information:**

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: [FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2500.

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

February 12, 2024 - Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 8-0-3 with three vacancies.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

These contracts will provide Austin Energy with vegetation management around energized distribution lines. This highly specialized work requires adherence to strict safety protocols and is critical to protecting Austin Energy's infrastructure, ability to reduce service interruptions, risks to the public, and wildfire. Services include pruning, trimming, removing, and other vegetation management needs in electrical facilities, utility easements, and rights-of-way. The requested amount includes contingency for weather-related events.

Austin Energy declared a Critical Business Need to enter into short-term contracts with its current vegetation

---

management contractors. Funding on the current contracts has depleted at faster than expected rates due to contract rate adjustments in the past few years and the multiple weather events prompting the use of regional resources to focus on vegetation management priority response locations with reliability and wildfire concerns. Austin Energy has secondary vegetation management providers under contract, whose crews will supplement but not fulfill the need alone. Austin Energy also has a competitive solicitation in queue to obtain new, long-term contract. These short-term contracts will allow continuity of services. The contractors are the current providers of these services.