



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

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**File #: 24-4311, Agenda Item #: 23.**

**4/4/2024**

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for a land stewardship program with American Youthworks, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$13,482,000.

[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)**

All City Departments.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$1,348,200 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of various City departments.

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

### **Purchasing Language:**

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Qualifications Statements (RFQS) 8600 SAR4009 for these services. The solicitation was issued on January 22, 2024, and closed on February 20, 2024. Of the two offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the best evaluated responsive offer. 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=140476](https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=140476).

### **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. Respondents to the solicitation and their Agents should direct all questions to the Authorized Contact Person identified in the solicitation.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

This contract will provide opportunities for youth and young adults between the ages of 17 and 24 to develop technical and job-readiness skills while performing environmentally sustainable landscaping services on City-managed properties. Services include the development of natural surface trails, removal of non-native or noxious weeds and brush, tree pruning, and general landscape maintenance. American Youthworks is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, offering opportunities to build careers, strengthen communities, and improve the

environment through education, on-the-job training, and service to others.

This contract replaces a contract that will expire September 5, 2024. The nature of the work and the reliance upon this contract by multiple departments creates a need to execute a new contract. The requested authorization amounts for this contract were determined using departmental estimates based on future project needs. The increase in contract authority is deemed necessary to allow the Parks and Recreation Department and other departments to execute land management work and support the workforce development goals. The requested authorization amount will also support work of multiple departments and the incremental increase in workforce development crew expansion associated with the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps program.

An evaluation team with expertise in this area evaluated the offers and scored American Youthworks as the best to provide these services based on company qualifications and experience (10.3), personnel qualifications and experience (10.4), and project management structure (10.5).

A delay in contract approval could impact the City's ability to support land management improvements for departments that rely on them.