



To: Zero Waste Advisory Commission

From: Richard McHale, Director, Austin Resource Recovery

Date: April 24, 2024

Subject: Director's Monthly Report to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Number of customers (under ARR service) that have four units or less that don't have recycling and composting.

Commissioner Melissa Caudle inquired the current number of ARR customers with four units or less that do not have recycling and composting. We have identified that 335 of our multifamily residents currently don't receive recycling services and 366 residents don't receive composting services. These customers receive dumpster services for trash disposal and are scheduled to receive carts for recycling and compost services.

Follow up on Brownie

The area has improved since implementation. Recycling on the north side of Brownie has a high compliance rate for recycling materials with little to no contamination, however we are still seeing some contamination on the south cul-de-sacs. Composting in the area has had high rates of contamination. During collections, operations teams have been sorting materials to identify contaminants. Compost employees are not sorting through the materials. Contaminants are easily identifiable (rigid plastics, garden hoses, bicycle tires, trash bags and aluminum are being placed in compost carts). Compost carts are periodically being collected and disposed of as garbage. Average weights are 1300-1500 pounds after collecting nearly 100% of the carts at 4-plexes on Brownie and providing tags to educate and notify the customer of the contamination. Landfill waste has also seen improvement, with no bulk set out since the most recent bulk pick up the week of January 15, 2024. There is still extra landfill trash set out, however we are seeing improvement overall.

AAR/APD Brandt Road Cleanup

The morning of March 4th, ARR was notified by Austin Police Department's Rapid Response that abatement would need to be performed at a homeless encampment on Brandt Road. ARR aids APD with the immediate removal of encampments that pose a risk to public safety. The encampment along Brandt Road is at-risk to floods and fires.

During the Brandt Road encampment cleanup, ARR crews removed approximately 76 tons of debris from the encampment. The debris collected during the two-day cleanup on March 4th and 5th equates to nearly 5-6 semi-automated residential refuse routes.

Onion Creek Street Sweeping

ARR Street Cleaning programs provide cleaning of bike lanes, boulevards, downtown and residential streets throughout the city. In doing so, the programs rely heavily on temporary collection sites set up throughout the Austin area.

The department has utilized the Onion Creek buy-out area, and several other locations around the city, to reduce travel time, and consolidate waste loads. Sites are chosen based on their proximity to street sweeping routes and the landfill.

Staff use fire hydrants to fill the street sweeper equipment with water to help with dust control during the sweeping process. ARR installs silt fencing in the staging areas which prevents material from entering storm drains and performs regular litter maintenance to clean up wind-blown debris.

The department requires employees to complete job training focusing on driver, equipment, and procedural training. The supervisor conducts weekly evaluations of employee performance.

Residents can call Austin 3-1-1 to share their concerns about street sweeping and temporary staging areas.

ARR is currently staging material at 4800 Bolm Road.

Austin Resource Recovery 2024 SWANA Award for Sustainable Materials Management

Austin Resource Recovery has won the 2024 SWANA SOAR Organization Award for Sustainable Materials Management - The Sustainable Materials Management Organization Award is given to one organization each year that is advancing the sustainable use of materials throughout their lifecycle to minimize waste and environmental impacts. Key circular programs such as Circular Showcase, Fix-it Austin, and MoveOutATX were featured.

EPA Grant – Reuse Warehouse

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the City of Austin to receive a \$4 million grant to create a reuse warehouse. Austin was among 25 communities chosen to receive funding from the EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure Recycling Program. The reuse warehouse will accept drop-off donations and redistribute furniture to regional nonprofit organizations with a focus on furnishing homes for those transitioning out of homelessness. The City held a press conference with officials from the EPA, Mayor Kirk Watson, and Representative Gregorio Casar on March 27. The department is currently identifying real estate opportunities to locate this warehouse. The department intends to open the warehouse no later than 2027. Video of the press conference can be found at: austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/301096.

Multi-family Composting

In September 2023, City Council approved amendments to the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) that will require composting access at multi-family properties in Austin. This policy change will be effective in October 2024. In February, the City conducted a educational meeting in partnership with the Austin Apartment Association on ordinance requirements. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) will send letters and emails to all multi-family property owners and managers in April 2024 notify them of the ordinance change. Additionally, ARR is currently reviewing (over 50) rebate applications for properties that elect to be early adopters of this ordinance, by starting compost service now. More information at: austintexas.gov/multifamilycompost.

Refuse, Recycling, and Organic Carts (CO-OP)

The Contractor shall deliver residential refuse, recycling, and organic carts with lid graphics and radio-frequency identification tags. These carts are crucial for the collection of residential garbage, recycling, and organic waste. This item was passed by council on April 18, 2024.

FEMA Reimbursement

On January 31, 2023, through February 3, 2023, an ice storm covered the City, bringing freezing temperatures, sleet, and icy conditions. The unprecedented ice accumulation resulted in road closures, extensive tree damage, broken power poles, and widespread power outages. The weather system was named Winter Storm Mara. On February 3, 2023, Mayor Kirk Watson and Travis County Judge Andy Brown signed local disaster declarations. On April 22, 2023, President Joe Biden partially approved the request from the State of Texas for a Major Disaster Declaration for Texas counties impacted by the effects of ice conditions and winter weather. The City responded to Winter Storm Mara by providing various emergency services for residents including the pickup and disposal of unprecedented quantities of storm debris, primarily downed trees and broken limbs and branches. The City enacted emergency protective measures, and Austin Resource Recovery utilized force account labor and overtime to activate the Emergency Operations Center to provide emergency response activities (communication, coordination, safety meetings, inspections) citywide. FEMA Public Assistance grant awards reimburse the City for expenses incurred for carrying out emergency protective measures from the Winter Storm Mara response during the incident period of January 30, 2023 through February 2, 2023. On April 18, 2024 Council authorized acceptance of a FEMA grant for \$28,333.85.



ARR Solicitation Updates

As of April 1, 2024

ZWAC Meeting April 24, 2024

❖ Preparing for Council:

- Zero Waste Youth Education Program (RFP): The Contractor shall provide a program to support the City of Austin's goal to reach zero waste by 2040 by continuing interactive education and outreach focused on zero waste concepts and sustainability for elementary through high school-aged students. Since [Link to the current contract.](#)
- Rental of Refuse Trucks – Short-Term Bridge Contract: The Contractor shall provide, deliver, and maintain rental refuse trucks, as needed, for emergency refuse, brush, and collection services. [Link to the current contract.](#)

❖ Published:

N/A

❖ Expected to be Published Within 90 days:

- Compost Processing Services: The Contractor shall provide complete processing, sorting, and composting of organics, yard waste, food scraps, and food-/oil-soiled compostable paper, as well as marketing services to include detailed data reporting to support the City's residential curbside compost materials collection services. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- Daily Drop-off of Unacceptable Bulk Waste Materials Collected through Dumpster or Roll-Off Service: The Contractor shall receive daily collections of the City's unacceptable bulk waste that is collected via dumpsters or roll-off services and disposed of at their disposal facility or landfill. New contract.
- Curbside Textiles Collection Program: The Contractor shall develop and implement an all-inclusive curbside soft textile recyclable materials collection services program that will not compete with charitable donation centers. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- Recycling Polystyrene and similar materials: The Contractor shall pick up, transport, and recycle densified foams, including expanded polystyrene foam, expanded polystyrene paper, extruded polystyrene foam, expanded polyethylene foam, expanded polypropylene foam, and polyethylene. [Link to the current contract.](#)
- Latex Paint Recycling: The Contractor shall recycle latex paint to increase the City's rate of diversion and shall create marketable product that can be sold to offset the cost of creating that product. [Link to the current contract.](#)

Definitions:

CCO (Capital Contracting Office): Administers the procurement of professional and construction services.

CO-OP (Cooperative Contract): A contract that has been competitively bid and issued by another government or purchasing alliance with the intention of sharing it with other governmental entities.

ILA (Interlocal Agreement): A collaborative contract between local government entities (for example, ARR and a county, state, or school district) to provide more efficient and less costly services, where any payments are made from current revenues.

IFB (Invitation for Bid): Formal bidding documents inviting suppliers to submit pricing for goods or services.

RFI (Request for Information): Used to obtain industry input, feedback, or reactions from potential suppliers prior to issuing a solicitation. RFQ

(Request for Quotation): Informal request to suppliers to provide quotes on specific goods or services.

RFQS (Request for Qualifications): Formal solicitation used when qualifications are the main criteria for professional services. RFP

(Request for Proposals): Formal request for a supplier to provide a solution and cost estimate to a complex need.



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4355, **Agenda Item #:** 3.

4/18/2024

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance accepting Federal Emergency Management Public Assistance grant funds from the Texas Department of Emergency Management and amending the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20230816-008) to appropriate funding in the amount of \$28,334 for Winter Storm Mara expenses.

Lead Department

Austin Resource Recovery

Fiscal Note

Funding the amount of \$28,334 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) via the Texas Department of Emergency Management. A City match of 25% is required and available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Resource Recovery.

For More Information:

Richard McHale, Director, Austin Resource Recovery, 512-974-1997; Aoife Longmore, Deputy Director, Homeland and Emergency Services Management, 512-974-0468

Additional Backup Information:

On January 31, 2023, through February 3, 2023, an ice storm covered the City, bringing freezing temperatures, sleet, and icy conditions. The unprecedented ice accumulation resulted in road closures, extensive tree damage, broken power poles, and widespread power outages. The weather system was named Winter Storm Mara. On February 3, 2023, Mayor Kirk Watson and Travis County Judge Andy Brown signed local disaster declarations. On April 22, 2023, President Joe Biden partially approved the request from the State of Texas for a Major Disaster Declaration for Texas counties impacted by the effects of ice conditions and winter weather.

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Austin Resource Recovery will not be required to contribute additional funds beyond those currently expended on this grant.

Project #: 126	Federal Award Date	Total Subgrant Amount	Federal Cost Share Percentage	Federal Funds Obligated	Local Cost Share Percentage	Local Cost Share Amount
Winter Storm Mara	02/22/2024	\$28,333.85	75.00%	\$21,250.39	25.00%	\$7,083.46

RCA Description:	Refuse, Recycling, and Organics Containers		
Name of Cooperative:	Omnia Partners		
Client/Managing Dept.:	Austin Resource Recovery		
Previous Contract information Contract number(s): Expiration date(s): Insert Chart: Authorization vs Spend (Separate out by year):	Contract: MA 1500 GC220000002 Expiration: 6/14/2024 Chart:		
	MA 1500 GC220000002	Authorized	Expended
	Initial Term: 12/21/2021 – 01/31/2023	\$3,900,000.00	\$940,425.19
	Amendment 1: Option 1 02/01/2023 – 04/30/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Amendment 2: Option 2 05/01/2023 – 05/31/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Amendment 3: Option 3 06/01/2023 – 07/31/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Amendment 4: Transferred contract from previous OMNIA cooperative contract to new OMNIA cooperative contract. 08/01/2023 – 06/14/2024	\$0.00	\$2,808,842.26
	Total	\$3,900,000.00	\$3,749,267.45
Explain how quantities/amounts were determined	The requested authorization amount was determined using departmental estimates, historical spend, and forecasted usage.		
y informal competition conducted within cooperatives?	Yes, multiple cooperative programs were evaluated for these goods. ARR compared quotes and discounts on the current contract and determined the pricing is equal or better.		

Contact Person(s): Department Questions (re: the Department, Program that will use this Contract, how the Contract will be used, etc.) (For Citywide RCAs, give multiple contacts for the major Depts contributing to the SOW)	Department Contact 1: Austin Resource Recovery Assistant Director Ron Romero will be available for questions during the April 18, 2024, Council Meeting. - Ron.Romero@austintexas.gov - (512) 974-4353
Contact Person(s): Procurement Questions (re: the Solicitation, Protests, Offerors, Authorization Amounts, ALO violations, etc.)	Procurement Contact 1: Matt Reynolds, Procurement Specialist II, (512) 978-1796, Matt.Reynolds@austintexas.gov Procurement Contact 2: Richard Whipple, Procurement Specialist III, (512) 974-3349, Richard.Whipple@austintexas.gov
Certification info? (City, State, HUB)	No.
Additional Information/Notes: (Public Interest? Important Information?)	The contract is 100% negotiated. A cooperative was chosen due to their substantial volumes, larger than any one government could achieve independently, cooperative contracts routinely include beneficial terms, conditions, and pricing. Use of cooperative contracts also result in lower administrative cost and time savings.

Contract Detail:

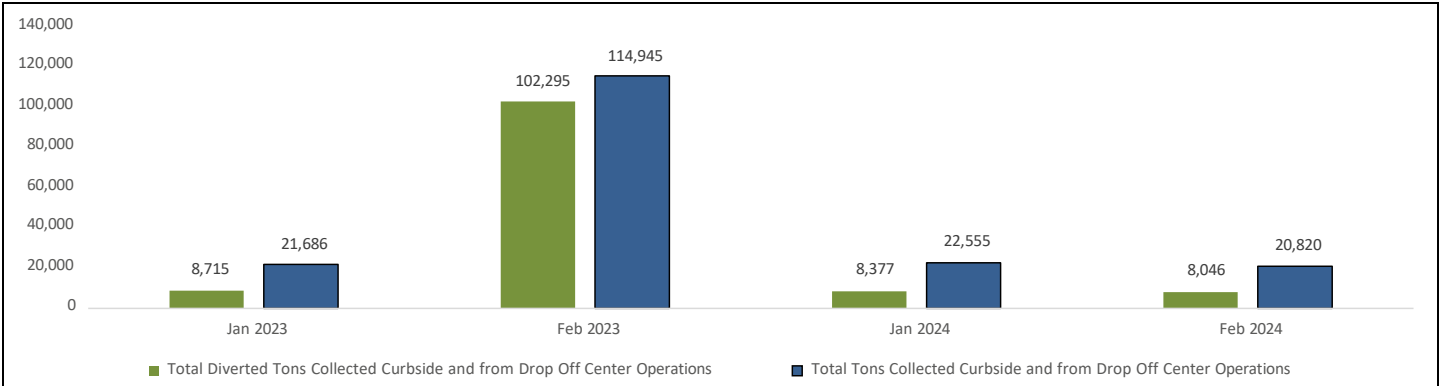
Contract Term	Length of Term	Contract Authorization
Initial Term	2 months	\$2,300,000
Optional Extension 1	12 months	\$2,300,000
Optional Extension 2	12 months	\$2,300,000
Optional Extension 3	12 months	\$2,300,000
Optional Extension 4	12 months	\$2,300,000
TOTAL	50 months	\$11,500,000

Note: Contract Authorization amount details are based on the City's estimated annual usage.

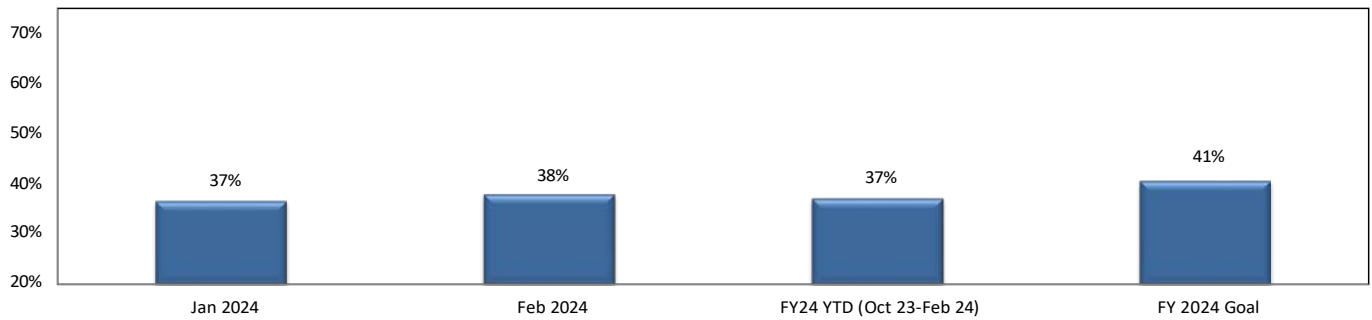
Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations

		LAST FISCAL YEAR				CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				
Description of Services		FY 2022	FY 2023	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	FY23 YTD (Oct 22-Feb 23)	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	FY24 YTD (Oct 23-Feb 24)	FY 2024 Goal
Tons Disposed	Tons of Curbside Trash	134,125	132,867	11,353	11,249	55,775	12,412	11,071	57,276	137,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Disposed	8,197	8,383	730	619	3,039	761	821	3,502	11,444
	HHW Operations Tons Disposed	613	540	51	32	205	35	45	179	580
	Estimated Tons of Curbside Recycling Residuals*	11,474	10,553	838	750	4,154	971	837	4,573	11,269
	Total Disposed Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	154,409	152,343	12,971	12,649	63,173	14,178	12,774	65,531	160,293
*Estimated tons of curbside recycling processed by vendors as residual - based on bi-annual sample route audit										
Tons Diverted	Tons of Curbside Recycling	45,974	53,839	3,998	3,579	19,037	4,113	3,465	18,390	50,731
	RRC Tons Recycled/Reused	1,607	1,528	141	98	562	149	145	702	1,500
	RRC Tons of Brush Collected	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	HHW Operations Tons Recycled/Reused	341	384	39	19	138	43	34	146	470
	Tons of Drop Off Center Collections Recycled/Reused	1,788	1,691	154	102	617	176	163	767	1,715
	Tons of Curbside Compost Collected	43,548	44,445	4,191	4,776	18,942	3,410	3,896	17,131	51,000
	Tons of Curbside Bulk Recycled	168	221	25	14	83	16	16	81	255
	Tons of Curbside Brush Collected	5,636	175,089	326	93,820	95,093	659	485	2,916	7,009
	Tons of Curbside Textiles Collected	47	58	5	3	24	3	5	14	40
	Tons of Carts Recycled	172	124	17	0	42	0	16	55	200
	Total Diverted Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations	97,333	275,466	8,715	102,295	133,838	8,377	8,046	39,353	110,950
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations										
Total Tons Collected Curbside and from Drop Off Center Operations		251,742	427,809	21,686	114,945	197,011	22,555	20,820	104,884	271,243
Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR		38.32%	63.42%	39.85%	89.01%	67.90%	36.59%	37.97%	37.12%	40.62%
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup										
Pounds of Trash Collected per Customer per Pickup		24.32	23.76	24.50	24.20	24.08	26.50	23.69	24.77	24.58
Number of Trash and Recycling Customers		212,139	215,063	213,999	214,732	213,829	216,341	215,864	213,481	214,346
Pounds of Recycled Materials Collected per Customer per Pickup (every other week)		16.77	19.37	17.36	15.49	16.54	17.67	14.92	16.01	18.31
Pounds of Curbside Compost Collected per Customer per Week		7.94	8.00	9.10	10.34	8.23	7.33	8.39	7.46	9.20
Number of Curbside Compost Customers		210,876	213,758	212,761	213,449	212,547	214,967	214,505	212,114	213,130
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA										
Total Tons of Dead Animals Collected from COA		51	71	7	6	25	4	5	28	30

Austin Resource Recovery Curbside Collection and Drop Off Center Operations



Estimated Percent of Curbside Collected Materials Diverted from Landfills by ARR

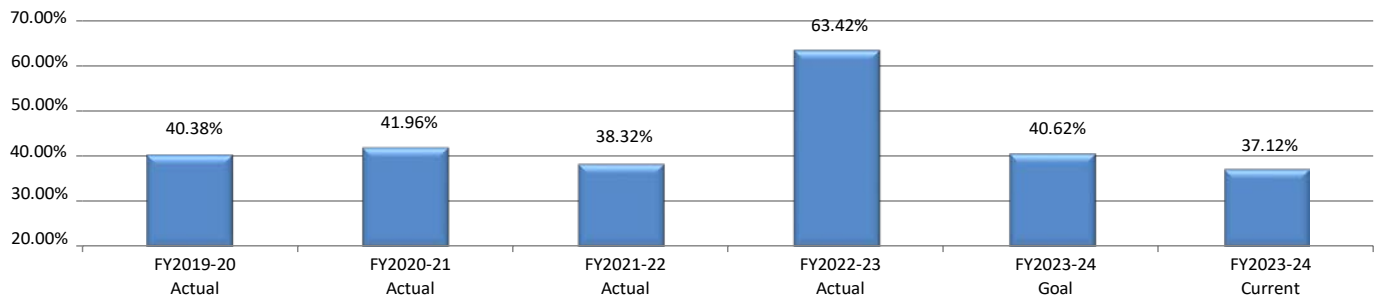


Reporting Status and Diversion Results for All Categories of Waste Generation

Category of Waste Generation	FY2019-20 Actual	FY2020-21 Actual	FY2021-22 Actual	FY2022-23 Actual	FY2023-24 Goal	FY2023-24 Current
Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)	40.38%	41.96%	38.32%	63.42%	40.62%	37.12%
Community Diversion Rate	*	*	*	*	*	*

*As prescribed in the Austin Resource Recovery Master Plan, the Department will conduct a detailed waste assessment study every five years to determine progress toward our Zero Waste goal. The first such study was published in 2015 and is titled Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study. The study focused on estimating diversion from both ARR-serviced properties and commercial properties. Commercial properties include retail businesses, food service establishments, professional offices, industrial properties, institutional facilities, government facilities, and multifamily properties five units and larger. According to Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study, Residential Waste Diversion Rate (city serviced accounts) represents approximately 15% and the Community Diversion Rate (accounts serviced by private waste haulers) represents approximately 85% of the total citywide wastage.

Residential Waste Diversion (city serviced accounts)



Category of Waste Generation	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020
Commercial Tons Landfilled**	1,079,312	1,401,619	1,359,207
Commercial Tons Recycled**	402,292	470,786	435,875
Commercial Organics Tons**	80,906	102,215	81,436

** Numbers reported here are compiled from self-reported data submitted by licensed private waste haulers via semi-annual tonnage reports required under Section 15-6-3 of the City Code on a calendar year basis and as such, ARR does not attest to the accuracy of these amounts. These numbers reflect data from 100-200 licensed haulers (number of haulers varies over time), and include haulers servicing dumpsters, roll-offs, construction and demolition debris, landscaping debris, and metal scrap. These numbers do not reflect all data sources included in Austin's 2015 Community Diversion Study.

Zero Waste Advisory Commission Meeting - February 2024
Single Stream Recycling Statistical Report
FY24: October thru December
Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Balcones Resources, Inc. (BRI)

Month and Year	Contractor	Tons Delivered	Contractor Payments				Net Value to the City	Landfill Cost Avoidance	
			Revenue	Processing Cost	Net Value	Net Amount Due/(Owed)*	\$ per ton value	Cost Per Ton	Total
October 2023	TDS	1,594.08	\$16,460	\$79,704	(\$63,244)	(\$63,244)	(\$39.67)	\$27.43	\$43,726
	BRI	2,841.29	\$160,521	\$278,446	(\$117,925)	(\$117,925)	(\$41.50)	\$27.43	\$77,937
	Total	4,435.37	\$176,981	\$358,150	(\$181,169)	(\$181,169)			\$121,662
November 2023	TDS	1,439.59	\$14,760	\$71,980	(\$57,219)	(\$57,219)	(\$39.75)	\$27.43	\$39,488
	BRI	3,288.63	\$179,414	\$322,285	(\$142,872)	(\$142,872)	(\$43.44)	\$27.43	\$90,207
	Total	4,728.22	\$194,174	\$394,265	(\$200,091)	(\$200,091)			\$129,695
December 2023	TDS	1,033.19	\$10,266	\$51,660	(\$41,394)	(\$41,394)	(\$40.06)	\$27.43	\$28,340
	BRI	3,821.65	\$220,505	\$374,521	(\$154,016)	(\$154,016)	(\$40.30)	\$27.43	\$104,828
	Total	4,854.84	\$230,770	\$426,181	(\$195,410)	(\$195,410)			\$133,168
January 2024	TDS	2,480.15	\$37,993	\$124,008	(\$86,014)	(\$86,014)	(\$34.68)	\$27.43	\$68,031
	BRI	2,604.89	\$247,561	\$255,279	(\$7,718)	(\$7,718)	(\$2.96)	\$27.43	\$71,452
	Total	5,085.04	\$285,555	\$379,287	(\$93,732)	(\$93,732)			\$139,483
February 2024	TDS	1,985.79	\$33,184	\$99,290	(\$66,106)	(\$66,106)	(\$33.29)	\$27.43	\$54,470
	BRI	2,342.12	\$235,492	\$229,527	\$5,965	\$4,473	\$1.91	\$27.43	\$64,244
	Total	4,327.91	\$268,676	\$328,817	(\$60,141)	(\$61,632)			\$118,715
March 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
April 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
May 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
June 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
July 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
August 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
September 2024	TDS				\$0	\$0			\$0
	BRI				\$0	\$0			\$0
	Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
FY24 Totals		23,431.38	\$1,156,155	\$1,886,699	(\$730,544)	(\$732,035)			\$642,723