

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-540
DECEMBER 16, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
SINGLE BID PURCHASE— UNDERBODY SCRAPERS	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	MARK DURHAM ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS —

The Public Works Department requested the Purchasing Division to solicit bids for two new or demo underbody scrapers (an underbody truck-mounted snow plow). Field tests showed that the hydraulic-assisted down pressure of the underbody plow, enhanced by the weight of the vehicle, was excellent for scraping compacted ice and snow from street and bridge surfaces. Originally designed for highways, a recently developed enhanced tripping feature now allows for their use on municipal streets which contain many elevated manholes and intake castings. The use of the underbody plows will aid in overall efficiency of snow and ice control operations and reduce the total quantities of chemical and abrasives required to eliminate ice during the season.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Funding for the purchase of two new units totaling \$15,794.80 and one demo unit at \$5,796.00 come from the Public Works Department's Operating Budget, Street Maintenance, Index Code 025015.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approve the single bid submitted by Hawkeye Truck Equipment Co. for a total amount of \$21,590.80 consisting of two new and one demo underbody scrapers.

BACKGROUND —

The Purchasing Division solicited bids by advertisement and mailing Invitations to Bid to 13 potential bidders of snow plows and blades. The Purchasing Division received seven responses to the Invitation to Bid for underbody scrapers; six responses were "no bids." Reasons given by the no bidders were that although they could bid a regular snow blade, they could not supply an underbody blade required by the Public Works Department. A bid submitted by Eddy Walker Equipment Co. was received too late to be considered and returned unopened to the company. Five additional potential bidders did not respond. Hawkeye Truck Equipment submitted the only compliant bid for their underbody scrapers at \$6,998.40 each plus \$899.00 each for installation of hydraulics. They also submitted a bid for a demo unit at a total cost of \$5,796.00.

The Public Works Department compared the amount bid by the same company for Poweshiek County and learned that Poweshiek County purchased three comparable underbody scrapers from Hawkeye Truck Equipment Co. at a cost of \$7,750.00 each installed. In comparison, the City of Des Moines received a bid of \$6,998.40 each for a total of cost of \$13,996.80 for two units. The hydraulics required to accommodate the scrapers were bid at \$899.00 for Des Moines as compared to \$978.00 for Poweshiek County. When the cost of the hydraulics is added to the per unit price, the cost to Des Moines per unit

is \$7,897.40 which compares very favorably with Poweshiek County's cost of \$8,728.00 per unit. The total cost to Des Moines for the two units is \$15,794.80.

The bid specifications called for two new or demo units, and the City received bids for both. Based on the price extended to the City of Des Moines on the two units bid and the total budget available, the Public Works Department is recommending purchase of the demo unit bid by Hawkeye Equipment Co. at \$5,796.00 as well. In combination, the two planned purchases plus the demo unit would total \$21,590.80. Funding is currently available for the total amount.