



Council Communication No. 97-245

SYNOPSIS –

A bid proposal for the helicopter application of mosquito control chemicals, to be performed this summer, has been returned with only one bid received.

FISCAL IMPACT –

The total cost for the helicopter and chemicals will be \$8,996 per treatment; two applications will be made during the course of the summer. These funds have been approved in the FY1996-97 Budget for the Neighborhood Inspections Division.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval.

BACKGROUND –

On February 28, 1997, a bid proposal was sent to 12 potential vendors of helicopter services; one response, from Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc., was received.

The helicopter application of mosquito larvicide has been used by the City for a number of years to treat large bodies of standing water which breed mosquitoes. This process is considered to be an essential part of a mosquito control program as it reduces the number of mosquitoes which hatch out of a breeding area and, as a consequence, also reduces the amount of mosquito spraying which needs to be performed.

The use of a helicopter to treat standing water in an urban area is a highly specialized service which very few companies in the Midwest provide. Most aerial applicators willing to bid on this type of proposal are agricultural sprayers with little or no experience in flying over urban areas to treat mosquito breeding locations.

Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc. has proven themselves to be a reliable vendor with an excellent safety record; staff recommends that this bid be approved by Council.