



Council Communication No. 97-313

SYNOPSIS –

Bids on the restoration of the S.W. 7th Street Bridge over Raccoon River were received by the IDOT on June 3, 1997 from three bidders: Cramer & Associates, Inc., Jensen Road Company, and Herberger Construction Company, Inc. The low bid submitted by Cramer & Associates, Inc. for \$771,336.50 was 45.6 percent over the engineer's estimate. Due to the specialized work involved in the restoration of this bridge and the difficulty in preparing cost estimates for this work, as well as the bidding climate at the current time, it is recommended that Cramer & Associates, Inc. be declared the lowest responsive, responsible bid and that the contract be awarded. In addition, a Supplemental Agreement with Shuck-Britson, Inc. has been negotiated for construction-phase services.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Eighty percent of the project cost for the rehabilitation of this bridge, including the consultant's fees and in-house engineering and inspection costs, will be paid by the IDOT from Federal bridge rehabilitation funds (maximum of \$850,000). Total project cost is now estimated to be \$950,000 with the City portion estimated to be \$190,000. The CIP budget has allowed for \$170,000 General Obligation (GO) Bond funding for this project. The additional funding will be transferred from the S.W. 9th Street Bridge over Yeader Creek Project which has been delayed.

RECOMMENDATION –

Designate Cramer & Associates, Inc. as the low bidder on this project and award of contract; approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with Shuck-Britson, Inc.

BACKGROUND –

On June 3, 1997, bids were received by the IDOT for restoration work on the S.W. 7th Street Bridge over Raccoon River. The three bidders submitting bids for this work were: Cramer & Associates, Inc., Jensen Road Company, and Herberger Construction Company, Inc. Cramer & Associates, Inc. submitted the low bid on this project in the amount of \$771,336.50. This was 45.6 percent over the estimate by Shuck-Britson, Inc. Consulting Engineers for the project. Cramer & Associates, Inc. has indicated that several items may have led to their bid being higher than anticipated. These items are as follows: 1) They considered the project as a high-risk project posing a challenge to develop custom scaffolding for the arches which meet OSHA requirements. 2) The project had been delayed to June which will make it difficult to complete

this construction season. The bids reflect either significant overtime cost or extensive remobilization in the spring of 1998. 3) The project requires Davis-Bacon wage scales because of the Federal funding involved, and these wages have recently been increased. 4) The contract documents restrict how much of the bridge can be restored at one time on each arch because of the traffic sequencing involved.

In addition to these factors as stated by Cramer & Associates, Inc. for their high bid, the project was also a very difficult one to estimate since the work is very specialized in nature. The consultant had initially felt that a bid of over \$600,000 would be anticipated, but because of average costs on bid items received by the IDOT on other bridge rehabilitation, the actual cost estimate utilized was approximately \$530,000.

It is recommended that the bid of Cramer & Associates, Inc. be accepted and the contract be awarded with the possibility of deleting some non-structural items from the project by change order to reduce the construction cost.

On January 2, 1996, the City Council approved Shuck-Britson, Inc. as the structural consultant to study the S.W. 7th Street Bridge and to provide a recommendation for rehabilitation of the structure. Subsequently, by Supplemental Agreement No. 1, Shuck-Britson, Inc. was approved to provide construction plans and specifications. Under the terms of the original agreement, approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 2 for construction-phase services is now requested.

The total project is estimated to cost \$950,000 including consulting fees for design and construction- phase services as well as Engineering Department incidental expenses for project administration and inspections. Of this total cost, 80 percent is eligible for Federal reimbursement through the IDOT, and 20 percent would be the obligation of the City of Des Moines. Funds in the amount of \$170,000 are currently available in the CIP for the S.W. 7th Street Bridge Project, Index Code 322743, page 76 in the CIP budget. An additional \$20,000 of funds can be transferred from the S.W. 9th Street Bridge over Yeader Creek Project, page 75 in the CIP budget, since the S.W. 9th Street Bridge Project will be delayed and all of these funds will not be needed in 1997-98. The S.W. 9th Street Bridge over Yeader Creek budget will be amended for the 1998-99 fiscal year.