

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**99-190**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

MAY 3, 1999

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

**SUBJECT:**

BID PROPOSAL FOR  
HELICOPTER  
APPLICATION OF  
MOSQUITO  
CONTROL  
CHEMICALS

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

The total cost for the helicopter and chemicals will be \$8,726.70 per treatment; two applications will be made during the course of the summer. These funds have been approved in the FY/98-99 budget for the Neighborhood Inspections Division.

**TYPE:**

RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

JIM GRANT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR

**BACKGROUND -**

On March 11, 1999, a bid proposal was sent to five potential vendors of helicopter services; one response, from Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc., Roselle, Illinois (J. Lyell Clarke, President) 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 truck mounted 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 that 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. The aerial application of adulticide would be utilized only in the event of a Public Health emergency related to a mosquito borne disease outbreak.

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