

Meeting Agendas/Info

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:

ITEM _____

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

01-127

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

MARCH 26, 2001

SUBJECT:

SINGLE BID FOR
LIQUID ASPHALT
MATERIALS

On February 7, 2001, the City sent bid packages to the only two regional companies capable of providing the quantity and variety of liquid asphalt materials needed. The City received a single bid from Bituminous Materials and Supply Company (900 East Raccoon Street, Des Moines, Iowa, Michael J. Kelly, President). The bid from Bituminous increased only 1 percent over the last year. Their bid was compared with bids obtained by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and was determined to be competitive.

FISCAL IMPACT -

TYPE:

Funding is currently available in the Public Works Department's Operating Budget for the purchase of \$210,000 worth of required liquid asphalt materials.

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

RECOMMENDATION -

SUBMITTED BY:

Approval.

WILLIAM G. STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

BACKGROUND -

The Public Works Department uses liquid asphalt materials in a variety of preventive maintenance and repair programs including chip and slurry seal, asphalt stabilization, and crack sealing. In addition, the materials are used to control dust on unpaved streets and to prepare paved streets for asphalt overlay.

Specifications for liquid asphalt materials were sent to the only two companies in the region capable of supplying the variety and quantity needed. Only one bid was received from Bituminous Materials and Supply Company located in Des Moines, which has been the case during the last five years. Bituminous also supplies materials to IDOT and other local government agencies. The next

closest supplier of liquid asphalt materials is in Dubuque, Iowa. This company has bid in the past but has never been competitive with the local company because of delivery costs. An out-of-area supplier precludes the efficiency associated with City crews picking up material locally.

The single bid, which increased by 1 percent over last year and only an average of 4 percent over the past four years, or approximately 1 percent increase annually, was compared with the bids received for similar materials by IDOT. It was found that the City's prices were comparable to those obtained by the State of Iowa.