

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

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

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

**02-041**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

JANUARY 28, 2002

**SUBJECT:**

COMPETITIVE  
PROCUREMENT OF AN  
ATOMIC ABSORPTION  
SPECTROPHOTOMETER

The Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) requested competitive bids for an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AA) for analysis of trace concentrations of heavy metals in environmental samples (storm, river, industrial and process) as required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. This was let as a competitive bid under Bid No. V02-06. Three vendors responded with bids. Of the three received, the lowest bid does not comply with the specification. Therefore, the WRF recommends the low compliant bid.

**TYPE:**

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

This Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer from Perkin Elmer LLC will cost \$52,889.96. The funding is available in the FY 2001/2002 budget.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

WILLIAM STOWE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**Approval.**

**BACKGROUND -**

The WRF annually performs more than 3,500 analyses for lead, barium, chromium and other heavy metals on environmental samples. The current AA Spectrophotometer is more than 12 years old and has required multiple lengthy repairs in the last 18 months. A funding request was approved and budgeted in the 2001/2002 budget. The WRF published competitive bids under bid No. V02-06 for procurement of this instrument. The low bid is non-compliant in these areas: 1) Light Source - the specification requires the AA to use the Laboratory's existing electrode-less discharge lamps (EDL). The laboratory has nearly \$20,000 of existing AA lamps that are worthless without a compatible AA

Spectrophotometer, 2) Data Storage - the City has standardized data storage around the SQL/Microsoft standard. The low bid uses a proprietary database raising compatibility and staff training issues that the bid specification intended to avoid. For these reasons, staff recommends awarding the bid to the next lowest bidder that fully meets the bid specification, Perkin Elmer LLC.

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