

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**03-156**

**AGENDA:**

APRIL 7, 2003

**SUBJECT:**

TRAILER MOUNTED  
VACUUM UNIT

**TYPE:**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**SUBMITTED BY:**

WILLIAM STOWE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
DIRECTOR

**ITEM 53D**

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

**SYNOPSIS —**

On January 28, 2003, the City's Purchasing Agent mailed out 5 bid packages for the purchase of a trailer-mounted positive displacement vacuum unit at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) to replace a 12-year-old truck mounted vacuum unit. Four bids were received. The low compliant bid was submitted by Municipal Pipe and Tool Company, Inc., (Steven Gearhart, President, 515 5<sup>th</sup>, Box 398, Hudson, Iowa 50643), in the amount of \$70,000. This unit, which best meets the needs for the work at the WRF, meets all the bid specifications. The two most important specifications being ejector plate unloading and 350 degree manual boom rotation. Both of these specifications will provide the operators of the vacuum unit greater flexibility to address the work by themselves, and also provide greater safety while unloading the wastewater from the storage tank. The operator will not have to be behind the unit to prepare the unloading of the liquid. The specified and recommended unit can be operated from the side eliminating the possibility of being splashed with wastewater, sludge, or chemicals. Staff recommends award of the bid to Municipal Pipe and Tool Company, Inc.

**FISCAL IMPACT —**

Funding, in the amount of \$70,000, for the purchase of the trailer-mounted vacuum unit is currently available in the operating budget of the Wastewater Reclamation Facility (equipment replacement fund).

**RECOMMENDATION —**

**Approval to purchase the trailer-mounted vacuum from Municipal Pipe Tool Co. Inc.**

**BACKGROUND —**

The WRF's 12-year old vacor truck is recommended to be replaced with a trailer mounted vacuum unit. The new unit will be more efficient to use, cost less, and be less expensive to maintain. It is the goal of the WRF to purchase the vacuum unit during this fiscal year and the jetter unit in the next fiscal year. The combined cost of the trailer mounted vacuum unit and the trailer-mounted jetter will be less than the cost of a single vacor truck. Only the bid submitted by Municipal

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION**

03-156  
APRIL 7, 2003  
PAGE TWO

Pipe and Tool meets all specifications.

Bid submitted by Elliot Equipment Company for \$50,647 is a used unit and does not have the required ejector plate and the ability for the boom to rotate 350 degrees.

Bid submitted by Elliot Equipment Company for \$59,035.31 does not have the required ejector plate and the ability for the boom to rotate 350 degrees.

Bid submitted by Midwest Underground Supply, LLC. for \$62,500 does not have the required ejector plate and the ability for the boom to rotate 350 degrees.

Excavac Corp did not respond to the bid.

