



Agenda Item:

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## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: 02/11/05  
067

Communication No.: 05-

Agenda Item Type: Receive/File

Roll Call No.:

Submitted by: Larry Hulse, Community Development, Director

### **SUBJECT—**

Bid request for Junk Vehicle Towing

### **SYNOPSIS—**

This request for bids for junk vehicle impound towing and storage is essentially the same as has been used to enforce the beautification ordinance since October of 1997 with the exception that it opens up the possibility that the contract could be awarded to a vendor outside the City of Des Moines if no City vendor submits a bid that meets all the requirements of the bid request.

The attached spreadsheet provides a two-year history of claims that the City has paid for theft and damage to impounded vehicles; this information was requested by Council Member Hensley at the February 7, 2005 City Council meeting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

Over the last two-year the City paid \$19,507 worth of claims for stolen property from vehicles stored on the vendor's lot.

### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

**BACKGROUND—**

The request for bid is attached. This request for bids for junk vehicle impounds is essentially the same as has been used to enforce the beautification ordinance since October of 1997 with the exception that it opens up the possibility that the contract could be awarded to a vendor outside the City of Des Moines if no City vendor submits a bid that meets all the requirements of the bid request. Under the current contract the City is responsible for property damaged and/or stolen while stored on the vendors property, not the vendor. The reason this bid was accepted, with the exception to the bid request, is that no other bids were received.

At the February 7, 2005 City Council meeting, concern was expressed as to the potential inconvenience to owners of impounded vehicles to have to drive outside the city limits to retrieve their vehicles. Staff recommends amending the RFP to restrict vendors to those that operate within two miles of the city limits to minimize this potential for inconvenience.

In conversations between staff and the current vendor, an informal proposal was made to compensate the City an additional \$15 per vehicle above the \$20 per vehicle now paid in lieu of providing insurance.

Staff recommends against this for two reasons:

- 1) Although the extra compensation would offset the cash paid for claims, it would not pay for the staff time involved in interviews, investigations, record searches, and other administrative costs involved in claim processing.
- 2) The provision of extra compensation provides little incentive for a vendor to maintain the requisite security to minimize theft and damage, and therefore minimize claims.

**Des Moines Automotive Claims**

**2003 Claims**

Name	Address	Amt. Claimed	Amt. Pd	Incident Date	Comments
Jason Bonnema	4002 Hubbell	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 800.00	3/12/2003	Damage & stolen parts
Larry Haines	1504 SE Hart	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	4/23/2003	PW hit vehicle & stolen property
Mary Challender	1024 Grand	\$ 604.20	\$ 604.20	5/7/2003	Damage to vehicle
Armando Perez	3130 6th	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 575.00	8/18/2003	Damage vehicle & stolen property Cleanup cost of \$536.26 pd from settlement result in
Tim Williams	4227 Boyd	\$ 619.40	\$ 83.14	9/3/2003	\$83.14
Sonia Orellana	1541 19th	\$ 371.46	\$ 371.46	11/13/2003	Stolen Property
Dennis Connolly	6120 Douglas	\$ 492.89	\$ 492.89	5/23/2003	Damaged vehicle
Melvin Haygood	1316 E27th	\$ 4,500.00	\$	8/11/2003	Damaged vehicle

1,250.00

Ed Bodensteiner		\$	1,604.67	\$0	4/8/2003 (\$500 would have been paid, but Claimant owed the City)
	7405 SW		\$		
Joseph Beminio	17th	\$	925.00	554.20	11/20/2003 Damage vehicle & stolen property
	1426		\$		
Elaine Jacque	Arlington	\$	3,181.60	2,674.70	11/6/2003 Stolen Property
Young Auto			\$		
Sales		\$	2,200.00	1,000.00	12/9/2003 Stolen Vehicle Police report made
			\$		
Lorna Talton	1016 28th	\$	933.15	300.00	7/29/2003 Damaged vehicle
			\$		
Gene Cook	1424 Penn	\$	211.98	105.99	11/20/2003 Stolen Property
		\$			
<b>Total</b>			<b>19,644.35</b>	<b>9,311.58</b>	

**2004 Claims**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Amt. Claimed</b>	<b>Amt. Pd</b>	<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Todd Tilley	1335 York	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 8,988.83	1/30/2004	Stolen property
			\$		
Dana Willis	1909 Lincoln	\$ 93.60	93.60	3/2/2004	Broken window
			\$		
Tonia Smith	1517 E 13th	\$ 4,303.14	1,113.14	8/9/2004	Stolen Property
		\$			
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,396.74</b>	<b>7</b>		

**TOTAL (2003 and 2004)**      \$      **\$19,507.1**  
37,041.09      5