



Agenda Item:
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## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 4/11/05

Communication

No.: 05-179

Agenda Item Type: Resolution

Roll Call

No.:

Submitted by: William G. Stowe, Public Works

### SUBJECT—

Single Bid for Emulsified Asphalt Materials

### SYNOPSIS—

On February 15, 2005, the City sent bid packages to the only two regional companies capable of providing the quantity and variety of emulsified asphalt materials needed. The City received a single bid from Bituminous Materials and Supply Company (Omer Ohl, Vice President, 900 East Raccoon Street, Des Moines, IA). The bid from Bituminous increased an average of four percent per year since bids were taken four years ago. Their bid was compared with bids obtained by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Polk County Public Works Department, and was determined to be competitive.

### FISCAL IMPACT—

Funding is currently available in the Public Works Department's Operating Budget for the purchase of \$300,000 worth of required emulsified asphalt materials.

### RECOMMENDATION—

Approval.

### BACKGROUND—

The Public Works Department uses emulsified asphalt materials in a variety of preventive maintenance and repair programs including slurry seal coats, asphalt stabilization, and crack

sealing. In addition, the materials are used to control dust on unpaved streets and to prepare paved streets for hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay.

Specifications for emulsified 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 for the past nine years. Bituminous also supplies materials to the IDOT, Polk County, and other local government agencies. The next closest supplier of emulsified 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 an average of 16 percent over the past four years, was compared with the bids received for similar materials by the IDOT and Polk County. It was found that the City's prices were lower than those obtained by those two agencies.