



Agenda Item:
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COUNCIL COMMUNICATION City Manager's Office

GENERAL INFORMATION

Agenda Date: 5/23/2005
302

Communication No.: 05-

Agenda No.:	Item	Type:	Resolution	Roll	Call
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Submitted by: Bill McCarthy, Chief of Police

SUBJECT—

Bid V05-097 Review of G&S Services for Towing and Storage Contract

SYNOPSIS—

The current City Contract for Towing and Storage of impounded motor vehicles expired May 9th 2005. Bid specifications were distributed to eight potential bidders. Three proposals were returned to the City. The District 2 (East Side) contract was awarded to American Towing, 2114 SE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, Richard M. Tibbetts, President, on May 11, 2005.

The City Council deferred the award of the District 1 (West Side) contract to revisit the recommendation of staff. The Police Department was instructed to conduct an investigation of G&S Services, 5356 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa, Glen Mikel, President to determine the company's equipment and storage qualifications to meet the Towing and Storage Bid Specifications. This vendor listed 1700 East Aurora as the site for storing and selling vehicles in the City of Des Moines. The site at 1700 East Aurora was investigated by staff. G&S Services does meet equipment requirements but not all facility and security requirements. Owen Crist Auto Body Service is the low compliant bidder and should be awarded the contract for District 1 towing and storage services.

FISCAL IMPACT—

None. Any revenue obtained from the sale of abandoned impounded vehicles is turned over to the State of Iowa. The State of Iowa reimburses the City for any expenses incurred up to a specific amount.

RECOMMENDATION—

Approval by the City Council to award the District 1 (West Side) towing and storage contract to Owen Crist Auto Body Incorporated.

BACKGROUND—

The Police Department's Towing and Storage Contract approved May 7, 2001(Roll Call 01-1376) expired May 9, 2005. The Towing and Storage contract is utilized by the Police Department to remove abandoned, illegally parked and hazardous vehicles from public property.

The Finance Department distributed specifications and bidding invitations to eight vendors. Three of these vendors responded with proposals. The District 2 (East Side) contract was awarded to American Towing, 2114 SE 14th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, Richard M. Tibbetts, President, on May 11, 2005. The City Council deferred the award of the District 1 (West Side) contract to revisit the recommendation of staff. The Police Department was instructed to conduct an investigation of G&S Services, 5356 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, Iowa, Glen Mikel, President to determine the company's equipment, storage, facility and security qualifications to meet the Towing and Storage Bid Specifications. The proposal submitted by this company listed 1700 East Aurora as the site to provide storage and auctioneer space for the City of Des Moines. The site at 1700 East Aurora was investigated by staff on May 16, 2005. G&S Services does meet the equipment requirements of the contract. At this time, facility and security requirements are not compliant in several areas.

The property at 1700 East Aurora is more than sufficient to provide outdoor and indoor storage of vehicles. An abundance of space is available for vehicle sales. The property is fenced and supports lighting around the perimeter.

At this time, the office space provided is in considerable disrepair and will require extensive cleaning and repair or remodeling. Asked how long the remodeling would take Mr. Mikel responded " a week." There is no furniture for office work. There are no bathroom facilities. Mr. Mikel would be using some type of chemical toilet to meet the restroom requirements.

The facility to be leased is shared with another company that constructs wooden pallets. This company has access to the grounds and personnel can walk to the outdoor storage area. Mr. Mikel and the property's management representative stated the other company employees were not allowed in the area to be leased by Mr. Mikel. The specifications do not allow access by the general public to the vehicle storage locations.

It is the Police Department's understanding the property at 1700 East Aurora does not meet City zoning requirements.

As a result of this inspection, it is our opinion that the proposal by G&S Services does not meet the requirements for facilities and security and that the low compliant bidder for District 1 towing and storage services is Owen Crist Auto Body Services.

It should be noted Mr. Mikel and his employee's were very cooperative with this investigation and made a concerted effort to provide staff with the information requested.

This contract is now and has been in the past based upon the supposition that this contract is to be an agreement with the City and the successful vendor for a period of two years with two one year renewals. This is a total contract term of four years. Municipal Code Section 2-737 now states goods and services can only be contracted for an initial term of one year with two one year renewals. The Towing and Storage Companies who bid these services prefer the four-year contract to defray the cost of equipment and services over a longer period of time. Council would need to approve the four-year service term.