



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date

June 5, 2006

Agenda Item No. 40B

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-334

Submitted by: Debra E. Christopher, Chief
Information Officer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving purchase of services from Alexander Open Systems for engineering, design, and implementation of a comprehensive network upgrade for the fiber and wireless network infrastructure, exempted from competitive bidding and advertising requirements, \$240,000.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to waive the competitive bidding and advertising requirements in order to contract with Alexander Open Systems (AOS) (6592 S. 118th Street, Omaha, NE, 68137, Tony Berg, President and COO, North Central Region) for implementation of a three-phased project to ensure the security, reliability, and comprehensive network monitoring of the City of Des Moines (CDM) fiber and wireless network infrastructure.

- Phase I will establish core network redundancy, increase security, establish additional firewalls, and fully implement network monitoring software.
- Phase II will provide denial of service protection, increased network filtering, and will limit intrusion.
- Phase III will provide wireless network security, extranet security, and further deployment of dynamic IP management.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$240,000

Funding Source: 2005-06 CIP, Page Municipal Improvements – 9, CP034, IFT990000, Enhanced City-wide Information and Communication Systems, G. O. Bonds. This project will replace the following: Document Management – Phase I - \$240,000.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Information Technology Department has prepared a three-phased plan and associated projected costs for the upgrade of the City's fiber and wireless network components. The improvements will establish

network redundancy, broaden security, increase automated network management functions, and ensure overall reliability of the network.

This action approves the purchase of network engineering labor in the amount of \$240,000. The total projected project cost is \$676,000. Another item on the Council Agenda for June 5, 2006 recommends the purchase of related hardware in the amount of \$436,000. The proposed plan, timeline, and cost detail are available for public inspection in the Chief Information Officer's office.

Staff is requesting exemption from the regular competitive bidding process and advertising requirements for this purchase. The Chief Information Officer has conducted an informal bidding process by contacting various vendors who provide network engineering services. Hourly price quotations obtained through this research indicate that AOS is the lowest cost provider of these services. AOS quoted labor rates 50% below the next competitor, with an additional discount because the firm does not charge for travel or related expenses. Also, AOS is located regionally in Omaha, Nebraska and also has staff based in Des Moines.

AOS is uniquely qualified for this project because their staff is certified by the City's network hardware and software vendor, Cisco Systems. AOS also has sufficient depth in network engineers and analysts to perform the required tasks for both the fiber optics and wireless networks. The lead network engineer for this project has a degree in electrical engineering and is Cisco-certified in network security.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:

Approval of related action on June 5, 2006 Council agenda for purchase of Cisco Systems hardware.