



**Council
Communication**
Office of the City Manager

Date | May 19, 2008

Agenda Item No. 40C
Roll Call No. 08-
Communication No. 08-296
Submitted by: Jeb E. Brewer, P.E.
City Engineer

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving purchase of Trimble GPS survey equipment from Precision Midwest, 30W 196 Calumet Avenue, Warrenville, IL 60555, for use by the Engineering Department Survey Section.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the non-competitive purchase of Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment from Precision Midwest. The Survey Section currently uses Trimble survey equipment. Continued use of Trimble equipment will allow use of existing software, reduce the training required, and ensure compatibility with City of Des Moines and Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$30,218.50

Funding Source: FY2008 Operating Budget, Construction & Support – Survey, ENG041000, Page 118

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) is setting up a system of “GPS Virtual Reference Stations” along the major highways across the state and will be using a cell phone for connection. The IDOT plans to have the new system completely operational by early 2009. The IDOT recently shut down two of the three Radio Frequency Base Stations in the Des Moines area. The Survey Section is currently using the remaining IDOT Base Station, as well as two City Trimble Radio Frequency GPS rover units and a Trimble Radio Frequency GPS Base Station at the Des Moines Airport. To compensate for the two deleted IDOT Base Stations, the Survey Section is currently using existing City equipment as a substitute for the missing stations. This is inefficient and creates a shortage of equipment for the Survey Section. The existing equipment is more than six years old and does not have cell phone communication capabilities.

Precision Midwest, Trimble’s sole area wide distributor, provides seven cell phone connected GPS Virtual Reference stations in place. Their system allows complete coverage of all of the Des Moines Area, including areas planned for annexation.

The Procurement Administrator of the Finance Department has determined Municipal Code Section 2-726 (a) (7) provides for a non-competitive procurement of goods and/or services that are of such a nature that they are the only goods and/or services which will fit and comply with the required use, or are an

integral part of a total system so as to be uniquely compatible with existing city need, materials or equipment to be cost effective. Purchase of the Trimble GPS survey equipment will allow use of existing software, reduce the training required, and ensure compatibility with City and IDOT equipment.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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