

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date	August 24, 2009
	Agenda Item No. 65 Roll Call No. <u>09-</u> Communication No. <u>09-613</u> Submitted by: Judy A. Bradshaw, Chief of Police	

AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend that the City Council reject the received bids, City Contract V09-103, Police Towing, and reissue bids with revised specifications.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend that bids received for bid V09-103 be rejected and new bids be issued outlining the new specifications pertaining to the cost to have a vehicle auctioned or released to the owner. New specifications will require that the unit cost of services the owner pays will not exceed unit costs to the City. Estimated quantities for the new bid will be based on a two year average, 2007 and 2008, of the vehicles impounded and auctioned, by district.

Additional steps to provide assurance that vehicle owners are treated fairly will be taken. Along with the vehicle release form obtained at the Police Department, vehicle owners will be provided a listing of contracted prices and a telephone number of a Police Department representative to be contacted if the vehicle's owner has concerns about the price that they are charged. Unit prices to be provided to vehicle owners will include the specific charges related to towing; such as flat bed fees, winching, storage, street clearing, unlocking linkage to transmissions, unlocking cars, secondary hooking, dolly usage, towing a semi-tractor, towing a semi-trailer and towing motorcycles.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$41,000. Payments to the winning bidder are expected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000 annually, but considering the offsetting revenues from auction proceeds and the State of Iowa, the net amount provided in the Police Department budget will be approximately \$41,000 per year.

Funding Source: Recommended Operating Budget June 30, 2010, GE001, POL040400, 527560, page 229.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines utilizes two impound towing contractors. The contractors are Owen Crist Auto Body on the west side of the City and Crow's Auto Service on the east side of the City. The contracts negotiated with these companies expired on May 31, 2009. However, contract extensions, for these services, have been made, for up to three months. If the bid process goes as expected, we would need to extend existing contracts until September 30, 2009, but have approval from the current contractors to extend to November 30th, if necessary.

Previously, the Purchasing department, in conjunction with the Police Department, distributed specifications for qualified contractors in the City. Three contractors submitted bids, G&S Services Incorporated, Owen Crist Auto Body and Crow's Auto Service. All of these contractors qualified for part or all of the City contract. However, there are concerns regarding the bid prices that a vehicle's owner will pay to have the vehicle released, as those prices exceed what the City pays for the same service. The new bidding guidelines will require that the price charged to a vehicle owner will not exceed the cost to the City for the same service.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 10, 2009

Roll Call Number: 09-1509

Action: Bids from G & S Services Inc. (Glen Mikel, Owner/President) and Crow's Automotive Services d/b/a Crow Tow (Randy Crow, President) to furnish impounded vehicle towing and storage services for use by the Police Department, estimated cost \$522,209. (Nine bids mailed, three received). (Council Communication No. 09-547) Moved by Coleman to continue to August 24, 2009 meeting and refer to City Manager for additional information regarding citizen fees being considered in bid process. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: July 9, 2007

Roll Call Number: 07-1351

Action: Approving bid from Crow Tow for impounded vehicle towing and storage for the Eastside district of the City. (Sixteen bids mailed, eight received.) (Council Communication No. 07-412). Moved by Coleman to adopt. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Vlassis.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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