


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	25-083	Meeting:	March 10, 2025
	Agenda Item:	29	Roll Call:	25-0361
	Submitted by:	Jonathan A. Gano, P.E., Public Works Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Approving \$44,000 of additional funds for procurement of soil quality restoration services from MB Lawn Care, LLC, pursuant to Request for Proposal (RFP) No. K24-753, for the Soil Quality Restoration Batch and Build Program.

SYNOPSIS:

In 2024 the City received a Water Quality Initiative Urban Conservation Demonstration Projects Cost-Share Grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). The 2024 Soil Quality Restoration Batch and Build Project Agreement with MB Lawn Care did not utilize all available grant funding. An increase in funding for the agreement is necessary to complete Phase 2 of the project in the spring.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$44,000

Funding Source: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Operating Budget, Page 221, Public Works, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), PW248424 (\$22,000 Stormwater Utility revenue, \$22,000 IDALS grant)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Public Works Department currently manages the Stormwater Best Management Practices Program which provides funds to private property owners to install various eligible stormwater management practices which reduce runoff and improve water quality of runoff.
- Soil Quality Restoration (SQR) is a practice typically applied to established lawns, using deep core aeration and applying a layer of compost to reduce the need for lawn fertilizers and watering and increase the capacity of the existing soil to soak up and retain stormwater.
- The Public Works Department is implementing the previously approved SQR Batch and Build Program to provide SQR free of charge to property owners within targeted areas. Since approving the original contract amount, additional applications have been received which will allow the City to use all available grant funds through the previously approved Water Quality Initiative 50% cost share agreement with IDALS. In total, approximately 190 properties are anticipated to participate in the program.

- The Public Works Department recommends approving the additional SQR services through the existing contract with MB Lawn Care, LLC.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: August 5, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-1081](#)

Action: [MB](#) Lawn Care, LLC for the soil quality restoration services for the Soil Quality Restoration Batch and Build Program as requested by the Public Works Department, at a total cost of \$156,000. (193 potential bidders, 4 received) Moved by Coleman to adopt. Second by Simonson. Motion Carried 6-0. Absent: Gatto.

Date: May 20, 2024

Roll Call Number: [24-0756](#)

Action: [Water](#) Quality Initiative Urban Conservation Demonstration Projects Cost-Share Grant Contract with IDALS in the amount of \$100,000 for the Soil Quality Restoration Batch and Build Program. ([Council Communication No. 24-219](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Second by Voss. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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