

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	26-201	Meeting:	June 8, 2026
	Agenda Item:	40	Roll Call:	26-0687
	Submitted by:	Heather Redenius, Human Resources Director		

AGENDA HEADING:

Award of Contract with Delta Dental of Iowa (Delta Dental), 9000 Northpark Drive, Johnston, Iowa 50131; Jeff Russell, President and CEO, for administration of the City's employee and retiree self-funded dental insurance plan for the period July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

SYNOPSIS:

Staff recommends approving administrative services only agreement with Delta Dental for administration of the City of Des Moines employee and retiree dental plan beginning July 1, 2026. The current agreement will expire June 30, 2026, staff is recommending approving the exception to the City's Request for Proposal (RFP) process for good cause and approving the agreement with Delta Dental beginning July 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Estimated administrative fees based on enrollment - \$114,663 annually plus claims

Funding Source: Health and Dental Fund, I301 ND4122647

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City provides dental insurance to its employees and non-Medicare retirees. Delta Dental has administered the City's dental plan since July 1, 2010. Their current agreement expires June 30, 2026.
- After analysis and consultation with Holmes Murphy, the City's benefits consultant, Delta Dental continues to be recommended as the City's dental insurance vendor. Retaining the current provider ensures continuity of care for employees, avoids disruption during open enrollment and claims processing, and maintains established working relationships and service standards.
- Plan design and employee premium contributions are negotiated with the City's three public safety bargaining units. Employees in non-public safety bargaining units and those employees not represented are covered under the same dental plan. The City's dental plan also includes retirees.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: June 22, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1043](#)

Action: [Agreement](#) with Delta Dental of Iowa (Jeff Russell, President and CEO) for administration of the City's employee and certain retirees self-funded dental insurance plan for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2026. ([Council Communication No. 20-289](#)) Moved by Gatto to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of T.M. Franklin Cownie City Administration Building, 1200 Locust Street. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to cityclerk@dmgov.org.