THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: December 13, 2022

Subject: Agreement and contract to purchase transit planning software

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Transportation Department Director
Amber Wagner,Transit Planning Division Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Carahsoft Cloud Solutions under the National association of State Procurement Officials Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time Transit Planning Software under a three-year contract for a total contract amount of $237,276.

Background:

- The City currently contracts with a software company called Swiftly to provide various transit-related data and information services that are integral to Asheville Rides Transit (ART) daily operations.
- These services include:
    - GPS-enabled real-time data showing the location of each bus on a route and when the bus is expected to arrive at a stop.
    - This data is pushed out by apps such as Google Maps, Moovit, and Transit App.
    - Trip planning capabilities - riders can enter where they want to go and the software will recommend routes and times.
    - Monitoring and reporting of on-time-performance for the overall system and for each route.
    - Bus operators and dispatchers use Swiftly for navigation and driver training.
- The City's current contract was entered into after a Request for Proposals during September 2018.
- The City's current contract with Swiftly expires at the end of December 2022.
- To ensure continued operations and real-time transit information for the public, staff is recommending using a cooperative purchasing agreement developed by the National Association of State Purchasing Officials (NASPO) that is specific to cloud-based softwares and includes transit-related software such as Swiftly (provided by Carahsoft Cloud Solutions).

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- None since a cooperative purchasing agreement is being used.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- This action will allow continued and uninterrupted use of critical software that provides information to both the public and staff regarding transit service.

Con(s):

- Failure to take this action will result in the existing contract with Swiftly ending and therefore a stoppage in receiving data and information regarding bus locations, system performance, and certain ART training activities.
- Failure to take this action will also require staff to pursue procurement of an alternative software to provide transit data, resulting in additional cost and impacts to riders.

Fiscal Impact:

- The contract will be a three-year contract with potential for additional one-year renewals under the cooperative purchasing agreement. The three-year contract cost totals $237,276 and is broken down as follows for each year:
    - Year 1 (January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023) = $74,714
    - Year 2 (January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024) = $79,298
    - Year 3 (January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025) = $83,262
- Funding for the first year of this contract is available in the Transit Services operating budget. Future years will be planned for during the annual budget development process.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Carahsoft Cloud Solutions under the NASPO Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time Transit Planning Software under a three-year contract for a total contract amount of $237,276.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CARAHSOFT CLOUD SOLUTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SWIFTLY REAL-TIME TRANSIT PLANNING SOFTWARE UNDER A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143 -129 for letting of public contracts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville and currently utilizes Swiftly transit software for the purpose of providing real-time transit information to riders, monitoring transit system performance, and as a tool for the training of ART staff; and

WHEREAS, to ensure continued and uninterrupted use of the software, the City of Asheville recommends using the National Association of State Officials (NASPO) Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Carahsoft Software Solutions for the purpose of contracting with Swiftly for three-years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute an agreement with Carahsoft Cloud Solutions under the NASPO Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the purchase of Swiftly Real-Time transit planning software under a three-year contract for a total contract amount of $237,276.

Read, approved and adopted this the 13th day of December, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney