THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: September 27, 2022

Subject: Lead Awareness Education Program - Free Lead Testing for City of Asheville Water Customers - Contract with Environmental Testing Solutions (ETS).

Staff Resource(s): David Melton, Water Resources Director
Brenna Cook, Compliance Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three year contract with Environmental Testing Solutions for $125,000.00 to provide lead analysis.

Background:

- This contract provides free Lead Testing for all City of Asheville Water Customers to help expand the Lead Awareness Education Program.
- The program will help customers determine if there is a lead issue with their household plumbing or service lines.
- The lead analysis is free for any City of Asheville Water Customer.
- The testing will help Water Resources identify any areas where lead could be present in the service lines and prepare for the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions that are effective October 16, 2024.
- Testing information collected will provide documentation to aid in applying for State grants or low interest loans to help replace service lines in affected areas, especially underserved communities.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- The City utilized standard outreach methods, including posting on the State's Interactive Purchasing System.
- There were no commercial laboratories certified by the NC State Laboratory of Public Health to analyze lead in drinking water in the City's database.
- An informal bid request was performed.
- Seven laboratories provided bids.
- None were Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises.
- Environmental Testing Solutions was awarded the contract.
- The vendor met all bid request requirements, were the lowest bidder, and are a locally owned small business.

Council Goal(s):

- A Clean and Healthy Environment

Committee(s):

- N/A

Pro(s):

- The testing program will inform water customers about potential lead in their homes.
- The testing information will help Water Resources gain a better understanding of potential areas of concern.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- Water Resources will enter into a three year contract with Environmental Testing Solutions for $125,000.00.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three year contract with Environmental Testing Solutions to provide all sampling bottles and to subcontract to an NC State Laboratory of Public Health certified lab for lead analysis of drinking water.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 22-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING SOLUTION (ETS). FOR GENERAL SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH LEAD AWARENESS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-312, the City of Asheville has authority to operate a public enterprise; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-20.1, the City of Asheville may enter into contracts with private entities to carry out any public purpose the City is authorized to engage in; and

WHEREAS, Environmental Testing Solutions (ETS) was one of seven firms selected by staff via a qualifications-based process to perform general services for Lead Awareness Program; and

WHEREAS, the use of Environmental Testing Solutions (ETS) will utilize the most qualified firm to ensure timely completion and fulfill compliance with scope of services for the development and implementation of the Lead Awareness Program;

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

The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Asheville, is hereby authorized to execute a three-year service contract with Environmental Testing Solutions, for general services required for the development of a free lead testing program for City of Asheville water customers which will help with the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions in the amount of $125,000.00.

Read, approved, and adopted this 27th day of September, 2022.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney