THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

City Council Meeting Date: December 14, 2021

Subject: Purchase three new 30-foot Gillig diesel buses.

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, Transportation Department Director
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Director
Eunice Lovi, Transit Planning Manager

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the Purchasing Division to purchase a total of three (3) new buses for the Asheville Rides Transit System that includes transit accessories and features totaling $1,649,192. This includes authorization to:

1. Execute purchase orders in the amount of $1,399,1922 for three (3) 30-foot diesel Gillig buses utilizing the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Cooperative Purchasing Agreement approved by the Washington State Department of Enterprise on October 20, 2021.

2. Waive the bidding requirements per NCGS 143-129(g) allowing the City of Asheville to utilize the existing Washington State Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Transit Buses Master Contract No. 06719.

3. Execute purchase orders not to exceed $250,000 to purchase a variety of transit features and accessories in order to outfit the buses with the equipment necessary for buses in the Asheville Rides Transit System fleet. This includes fareboxes, security cameras, and bike racks.

Background:

- The City of Asheville has been approved by the Washington State Department of Enterprise to participate in the State's Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for Transit Buses Master Contract No. 06719 for the purchase of buses from Gillig.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division has approved the City's use of the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Cooperative Purchasing Agreement to purchase the buses.
- The City wishes to purchase a total of three (3) buses 30-ft. Gillig diesel buses at this time from the total number of bus assignments allotted to the City of Asheville by Washington State.
- The City expects to receive these buses in 12-18 months.
- Diesel buses are to be purchased due to the lack of alternative options at this time.
- Appropriately sized electric buses are not currently being manufactured and Gillig does not have hybrid buses available for purchase at this time.
- Funding to purchase the buses and associated accessories will be provided from two grants sources previously received by the City, including one received from the MPO in 2018 for the purpose of purchasing buses, and one from FTA (5339).
- A sole source procurement through GenFare, SportWorks, and SEON is necessary to ensure that staff is able to purchase the transit accessories and features from the approved providers for the fareboxes, bike racks, and safety and security cameras.
- The 20% required local match is already programmed in the City's Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Vendor Outreach Efforts:
- N/A

Council Goal(s):
- Transportation and Accessibility

Committee(s):
- None.

Pro(s):
- This action will enable staff to purchase additional buses needed to continue to provide transit services.
- This action ensures compliance with the Federal Transit Administration and the City of Asheville's procurement policy.

Con(s):
- The City is required to provide the required 20% match, or approximately $329,838.

Fiscal Impact:
- Funding to purchase the buses and associated accessories will be provided from two grants sources previously received by the City, including one received from the MPO in 2018 for the purpose of purchasing buses, and one from FTA (5339).
- The City will provide the required 20% ($329,838) matching funds.
- The grant and the City match are already budgeted in the approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Suggested Motion:
Recommend City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase a total of three (3) new buses for the Asheville Rides Transit System including transit accessories and features totaling $1,649,192. This includes authorization to:

1. Execute purchase orders in the amount of $1,399,192 for three (3) 30-foot diesel Gillig buses utilizing the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Transit Buses Master Agreement No. 06719;

2. Waive the bidding requirements per NCGS 143-129(g) allowing the City of Asheville to utilize Washington State Department of Enterprise Services Transit Buses Master Agreement No. 06719 to purchase three (3) Gillig diesel buses, assigned by the Washington State Department of Enterprise to the City of Asheville through its Cooperative Purchasing Agreement;

3. Execute purchase orders not to exceed $250,000 to purchase transit features and accessories in order to outfit the necessary equipment on buses in the Asheville Rides Transit System. This includes fareboxes, security cameras, and bike racks.

4. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase the fareboxes, bike racks, safety, and security cameras using sole source procurement from GenFare, SportWorks, and SEON for installation in the new buses in Asheville Rides Transit (ART) fleet.

Attachment(s)
- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASING DIVISION TO EXECUTE PURCHASE ORDERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE TRANSIT BUSES AND ACCESSORIES

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

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S §143 -129 (g) permits a municipal governing board to waive the requirement to request formal bids for procurement contracts; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S §143 -129 (g)(3), states that "the governing body of a political division of the State, or the person to whom the authority has been delegated under subsection (a) of this section, determines that it is in the best interest of the unit, the requirements of this section may be waived for the purchase of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment from any person or entity that has, within the previous 12 months, after having completed a public, formal bid process substantially similar to that required by this Article, contracted to furnish the apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment to . . . any other state or any agency or political subdivision of that state, if the person or entity is willing to furnish the items at the same or more favorable prices, terms, and conditions as those provided under the contract with the other unit or agency."; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department has identified transit needs that include bus purchases for FY 2022; and

WHEREAS, federal funds would assist in the funding of such needs; and

WHEREAS, the local match is currently budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the Purchasing Division to purchase a total of three (3) new buses for the Asheville Rides Transit System including transit accessories and features totaling $1,649,192. This includes authorization to:

1. Execute purchase orders in the amount of $1,399,192 for the three (3) 30-foot diesel Gillig buses utilizing the existing Washington State Department of Enterprise Cooperative Purchasing Agreement Contract No. 06719 in which the City of Asheville has received approval to participate in the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement;

2. Waive the bidding requirements per NCGS 143-129(g) allowing the City of Asheville to utilize the Washington State Department of Enterprise Cooperative Purchasing Agreement No.06719 to purchase three (3) Gillig diesel buses, assigned by the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services to the City of Asheville; and

3. Execute purchase orders not to exceed $250,000 to purchase transit features and accessories to outfit the necessary equipment on buses in the Asheville Rides Transit System.

4. Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to purchase the fareboxes, bike racks, safety, and security cameras using sole source procurement from GenFare, SportWorks, and SEON for installation in the new buses in Asheville Rides Transit (ART) fleet.

   Read, approved, and adopted this 14th day of December 2021.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney