Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Subject: Sole Source Procurement for AFD's Fire Station #4

Staff Resource(s): Jade Dundas, Capital Projects Director

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to use the sole source procurement method to purchase upgrades and enhanced features for the Mach-Alert station alerting system currently installed at Fire Station #4.

Background:

- The Fire Station #4 renovation is currently underway with an estimated substantial completion date of May 2021.
- The project will require specific equipment or systems to be procured with sole source methods.
- These methods are in the best interest of the City for the reasons identified below.

Sole Source Requests

- NCGS 143-129 (e) 6 allows for Purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when:
  (i) performance or price competition for a product is not available;
  (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or
  (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration.
- City Council must approve these items which are to be purchased for installation outside of the construction contract.

- Mach Alert Station Alerting - Fire Station #4
  - Mach Alert is the fire station alerting system that is used in every Asheville fire station to notify firefighters to respond to incidents.
  - The system is integrated within the city's radio system and dispatch center to create a single comprehensive notification system.
  - The Asheville Fire Department has been using the Mach-Alert fire station alerting system since 2016.
  - Changing vendors for the fire station alerting system at Fire Station #4 would require replacement of the current systems located within each of the fire stations and include replacement of the network infrastructure at the dispatch center.
  - A stand alone system would be incompatible with the rest of the alerting system and the comprehensive notification across the City would not be possible.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Sole source procurement allows for products to be purchased exclusively from one vendor in order to ensure the expansion of an existing system using proprietary components.
- In using sole source procurement, there is no outreach because the items are purchased from a specific vendor.

Council Goal(s):

- A financially resilient city

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Provides systems that will continue standardization or compatibility with existing City systems.
- This will result in cost savings through reduced operations and maintenance.

Con(s):

- Sole source procurements may reduce competitive pricing.

Fiscal Impact:

- The estimated cost of this upgrade is $50,000.
- The alternative would be to replace the system with a new system which would be significantly more expensive.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution allowing for the sole source procurement of Mach-Alert Station Alerting for Fire Station #4

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO USE THE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT METHOD FOR THE FIRE STATION #4 RENOVATION.

WHEREAS, pursuant NCGS 143-129(e) 6, allows for Purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when: (i) performance or price competition for a product are not available; (ii) a needed product is available from only one source of supply; or (iii) standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration. ; and

WHEREAS, standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration to sole source Mach-Alert Station Alerting for Fire Station #4**;**

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

The City Manager is hereby authorized to use the sole source procurement method for Mach Alert Station Alerting for Fire Station #4.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 23rd day of March 2021.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney