THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: Amendment to COVID-19 Supplemental Transit Operations Support Contract with Young Transportation.

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

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution and budget amendment authorizing the City Manager to amend the contract with Young Transportation for supplemental transit service by increasing the contract amount by $560,000, from $962,000 for a total of $1,522,000 and extending the contract term to April 30, 2021.

Background:

- The City received $3,668,469 amount of CARES Act funding to assist with providing transit services during the pandemic.
- COVID-19 pandemic has impacted ART operations significantly in the number of drivers available to provide service, bus capacity, additional cleaning and providing the necessary safety for drivers and passengers.
- The lack of drivers and 60% cut to bus capacity resulted in having to cut routes and passengers being left behind frequently as buses reached the 10-person limit quickly, particularly during peak hours.
- In response to these issues, on May 26, 2020, the City Council awarded a contract to Young Transportation for $962,000 to provide supplemental transit service support by using additional buses and drivers from Young Transportation to pick up stranded passengers and to supplement ART driver numbers.
- The original contract anticipated using four Young Transportation buses for 12-hours per day seven days per week from June 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.
- Starting June 1st, staff realized that four Young Transportation buses were insufficient to meet the needs of the riders.
- The City requested that Young Transportation provide three more buses and drivers to help drive routes and pick up stranded passengers.
- The current limited number of riders on the bus is 13 plus the driver.
- At this time, the City continues to utilize four Young Transportation buses and drivers at a cost of approximately $36,000 per week.
- At this rate of expenditure, the original $962,000 in the contract will be depleted by approximately the third week of November.
- Staff is recommending increasing the contract with Young Transportation by $560,000 to be paid from CARES Act funds remaining.
- The $560,000 will provide at least 15 additional weeks (through 1st week of March) of Young Transportation service at the current four bus level.
- This will leave a balance of $423,167 of CARES Act Funding to use for other needs.
- Congress has not passed any additional COVID-19 relief funding packages.

Vendor Outreach:

- The original Bid Invitation was posted on the North Carolina Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) website and staff contacted seventeen businesses via email that are registered as HUB businesses and/or Disadvantaged businesses. Additional vendor outreach to local transportation

companies was also conducted. No bids were received by disadvantaged or minority businesses.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s):

- None

Pro(s):

- Adding an additional $560,000 to the Young Transportation contract will provide an additional 15 weeks of supplemental service; this amount is expected to last through the first week of March at the current four supplemental bus level.

Con(s):

- The City has spent nearly $2.6 M of its $3.68 M in CARES Act funds.
- Staff is not aware of any additional funding that will be available for transit.
- The City is currently spending approximately $36,000 per week on the Young supplemental service and will run out of CARES Act funding before the end of the fiscal year.

Fiscal Impact:

- No City funds are being used to provide the supplemental service through Young Transportation at this time.
- CARES Act funds are being used.
- If this expenditure is approved by City Council, the balance in the CARES Act funding will be $423k.

Suggested Motion:

- Adoption of a resolution and budget amendment authorizing the City Manager to amend the contract with Young Transportation for supplemental transit service by increasing the contract amount by $560,000, from $962,000 to $1,522,000 and extending the contract term to April 30, 2021.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution
- Budget amendment

RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH YOUNG TRANSPORTATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSIT SERVICE AND EXTENDING THE CONTRACT TERM TO APRIL 30, 2021

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 issued a competitive request for proposals for the purpose of providing supplemental transit operations services in an effort to partially restore service reduced ;

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville awarded the contract to Young Transportation to provide daily supplemental transit operations services for the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the City awarded $962,000 to Young Transportation to provide supplemental transit operations service in the City of Asheville's service area;

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

City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to amend the contract with Young Transportation for supplemental transit service by increasing the contract amount by $560,000, from $962,000 to $1,522,000 and extending the contract term to April 30, 2021.

Read, approved and adopted this the 10th day of November, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

That the City of Asheville Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Ordinance be amended to provide an additional appropriation of $560,000 toward the contract with Young Transportation for supplemental transit service, as a grant from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CARES Act funds as follows:

TRANSIT SERVICES FUND

Revenues:

CARES Act Revenue	$560,000
Total Revenues	$560,000

Appropriations:

Contracted Services	$560,000
Total Appropriations	$560,000

That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the date of final passage.

Read, approved and adopted this 10th day of November, 2020.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____

City Attorney