City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: June 23, 2026

Staff Resources: Holly Barham - Department Director and Christen Watts - GIS Manager.

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three-year contract with ESRI, Inc. for GIS software, support, and licensing.

Background:

- On June 13, 2023, Council approved Resolution No. 23-128 for the GIS contract with ESRI, Inc. for three years.
- Currently, the ESRI software is how spatial assets and data are collected, analyzed, and visualized throughout the City, including recent Helene damage and debris data collection and reporting.
- This contract will allow the City of Asheville to continue enhancements to its GIS program, which utilizes ESRI software. Without this contract, these enhancements and the following key functions would not be available, including public facing GIS platforms:
    - GIS dashboards and Map Asheville
    - The open data program
    - Water utility management
    - Police Transparency Dashboards
    - Asset management services
    - Mapping and storytelling for the Emergency Operations Center
    - Various other applications

Vendor Outreach:

- Because of the standardization needed to maintain the City's current GIS maps, and the fact that the vendor is the sole source for software licenses and maintenance, no outreach was conducted.
- An exception to bidding was approved by the City Manager's Office on March 25, 2026, in accordance with Outreach Exceptions per General Statute section 143-129(e).
- ESRI charges an annual fixed price to public sector clients based on population through a competitive enterprise license agreement, and it is in the City's best interest to "piggyback" on this vendor's agreements with other local governments to provide these services at identical prices.
- ESRI has a long history of providing consistent cost to all public sector clients notwithstanding a steady increase in the price of the fees for these types of services.
- Changing the City's underlying GIS infrastructure would result in significant costs in terms of lost productivity and the need to rebuild existing GIS assets.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility
- Connected and Engaged Community
- Fiscally Resilient City
- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- People; Infrastructure & Environment; Housing; Economic Recovery.

Committee(s):

- Not applicable

Fiscal Impact:

- Funding for the first year of this contract ($66,600.00 in total) is included in both the Information Technology Services and Water's adopted operating budget for FY 2027.
- $60,300 comes from the IT Services budget, and $6,300.00 for the ArcGIS GeoEvent Server is included in the adopted Water Services operating budget for FY 2027.
- The ArcGIS GeoEvent Server is included in the ESRI contract.
- The total three-year contract cost is $199,800.00.
- Future years will be planned in the annual budget development process.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Esri, Inc. on behalf of the City of Asheville for the purpose of providing a fixed rate contract for GIS software, support, and maintenance in the amount of $66,600.00 per year for the next 3 years, the total amount of $199,800.00.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With Esri, Inc. For A 3-Year Contract For Gis Software Maintenance, support, and licensing.

Whereas, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to General Statute section 160A-20 to enter into contracts with private entities to perform any authorized functions; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville has authority pursuant to General Statute section 143-129(e)(6) to use alternative acquisition methods where standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration and where the vendor is the sole source; and

Whereas, the City had a 3-year contract with Esri, Inc. for GIS software maintenance, and staff recommends a new 3-year contract; and

Whereas, the software maintenance contract provides for a fixed rate maintenance cost for the next 3 years; and

Whereas, Esri, Inc. is the sole source for software licenses and maintenance; and

Whereas, the current contract between the City of Asheville and Esri, Inc. will be expiring, and both parties wish to enter into a new 3-year contract for maintenance;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that: The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Esri, Inc. on behalf of the City of Asheville for the purpose of providing a fixed rate contract for GIS software, support, and maintenance in the amount of $66,600.00 per year for the next 3 years, the total amount of $199,800.00.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of June, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk