

AGENDA



Thursday, May 24, 2007

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 25**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 36-month requirements supply contract through the HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (H-GAC) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM with SPRINT SOLUTIONS, Reston, VA, for wireless data network connectivity and related cellular/radio services in an estimated amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 with three 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$600,000 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budgets of various departments. Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is available in the Capital Budget of Communications & Technology Management, Wireless Communications Services. Funding for the remaining 32 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Pete Collins, Chief Information Officer/CTM, 974-2344

Purchasing Language: Purchasing Cooperative.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is a Cooperative Purchase; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 252.022 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract will provide wireless data network connectivity and related services to the various City departments listed below.

- For the Austin Police, Austin Fire, Austin-Travis County EMS, Public Safety and Emergency Management Departments, wireless data network connectivity will allow service calls to be wirelessly sent via the City's Computer Aided Dispatch system to mobile data devices (laptop computers) installed in the vehicles of first responders.
- For the Watershed Protection and Development Review, Health and Human Services, and Solid Waste Services Departments, wireless data network connectivity will allow inspectors, using the mobile data devices (laptop computers) installed in their vehicles, to wirelessly access the permitting and inspection databases of the AMANDA system, complete their research and inspection work, and provide copies of reports to customers while still in the field.
- For the Austin Water Utility and Austin Energy, wireless data network connectivity will provide service for wireless metering (using wireless-equipped modems) as well as enable the departments to route service orders directly to their field crews via mobile data devices (laptop computers).
- For the Aviation, Financial and Administrative Services, and other City departments, wireless data network connectivity allows employees to remotely access informational databases and to transmit/report

information used in departmental activities such as noise monitoring, GIS surveys, workforce scheduling, service order routing, in-field report filing, inventory and asset management, facilities management, construction management, security and public safety, communications, and IT support.

The contract will also provide continued cellular and 2-way radio communications equipment and service for various City departments. The cellular and 2-way radio features provided by Nextel have been used effectively by the following departments since 1998:

- Emergency Medical Services paramedics use the units to communicate with command staff, local hospitals, and the emergency communications center.
- Austin Energy crews use the units to communicate with each other and the command center while performing maintenance as well as outage restoration work.
- Austin Fire Department inspectors and engineers use the units to communicate with each other instantly and share information regarding safety hazards.
- Solid Waste Services personnel use the units to receive work orders directly from the 311 call center.
- Aviation Department personnel use the units in their noise monitoring program and also to communicate with each other and with non-public safety personnel in emergency situations.
- Austin Police Department personnel use the units to verify birth dates of suspected underage drinkers by wirelessly sending and receiving driver's license data between the units and the Department of Public Safety database.
- Austin Eastside Story (AES) bus drivers and counselors use the units to communicate with the dispatcher as they drive children from schools to AES sponsored after-school programs.

These services are available through a contract that was competitively bid and awarded by the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments.