

AGENDA



Thursday, August 28, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 56**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract through the Texas Multiple Awards Schedule (TXMAS) with ALPHA DATA CORPORATION, Fort Walton Beach, FL, for the purchase and installation of library circulation and self-checkout systems in an estimated amount not to exceed \$287,740.75.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Library Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Mick Osborne, Specialist Sr. Buyer /974 2995

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 791 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract is for the purchase of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) library circulation and self-checkout systems for the North Village Branch Library (opening January 2009), and the Twin Oaks Branch Library (opening August, 2009).

The Austin Public Library (APL) currently uses library circulation and patron self-checkout systems that involve the use of barcodes. Many libraries across the country, including Houston and San Antonio, have upgraded their systems to RFID. This purchase will upgrade two libraries to RFID technology.

With barcode systems, the librarian or patron must line up the bar code on the book directly with the bar code scanner and then perform a second operation that desensitizes the embedded chip in the book or other library material. With RFID technology, the librarian or patron simply stacks the library materials on a scanner and an antenna gathers all the pertinent information, eliminating the need to place the materials in a particular position in order to be scanned. The RFID system also allows multiple items to be scanned simultaneously. These two enhancements will speed the check-in/check-out process, make it easier to search for requested and lost items, and streamlines the shelf-reading procedure. As a result, this will reduce staff hours for these functions, allowing staff to devote more time on the floor providing customer services such as assisting patrons with computer usage, finding materials, and answering research/reference questions. Library patrons using the self-checkout systems will also benefit with a reduction of time spent on the process.

APL's long term plan is to upgrade all libraries in the system over the next six years, as funding becomes available. These upgrades will enhance APL's effort to provide its patrons with the best library experience and the highest level of customer service possible.

Alpha Data Corporation is under contract through TXMAS to provide these products to other public entities state-wide. This cooperative purchasing program is coordinated by the State of Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and allows the City to use TXMAS contracts that have been developed from contracts

that were competitively bid and awarded by the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service.