CIP
EXPENSE DETAIL

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: 10/20/11

CONTACT DEPARTMENT: Communications and Technology Management

SUBJECT: Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month service agreement with SOCRATA, INC., Seattle, WA, to provide vendor-hosted open data platform services in an amount not to exceed $66,000, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed $36,000 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed $210,000.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

Department:	**Communications and Technology Management**
Project Name:	WEBSITE REDESIGN
Fund/Department/Unit:	8641-5607-2002
Funding Source:	CTM Fund Transfer

Current Appropriation:	977,000.00
Unencumbered Balance:	239,718.00
Amount of This Action:	(66,000.00)
Remaining Balance:	173,718.00
Total Amount of this Action	66,000.00

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In an ongoing effort to provide transparency, participation, and collaboration in government, the City of Austin is moving forward with the implementation of a City Data Portal. This initiative is directed by the City Manager and is meant to follow the lead of the Federal government and other municipalities with similar initiatives. Examples of data provided through municipal portals include crime statistics, transportation data, financial data, geospatial data and general data subject to Public Information Act requests.

 It is expected that the data portal will be launched initially with a small group of datasets at or near the time of launch of the City of Austin website redesign in December, 2011. The portal will continue to increase in size and scope as more datasets become available from departments. This portal will make City data available in a variety of industry-standard formats and reach three key user groups: 'average' website users, researchers, and software application developers. Furthermore, this interface will provide accessible data sorting, searching, and filtering capabilities as well as community features for dataset commenting, rating, and discussion.

The City of Austin is choosing a hosted solution (The Socrata Open Data Platform™) to meet the deadlines set by the City Manager to make data available to the public. Due to the cost of setting up servers, obtaining database licenses, and the resources required to initiate an in-house development, selecting a vendor with all these components in place is imperative to provide this service.

Implementation and training for the service is a one-time cost of $30,000 with an ongoing fee of $3000 per month for hosting and support.