Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council		Item ID:	25940	Agenda Number	40.

Meeting Date:	August 29, 2013
Department:	Purchasing

Subject

Authorize award and execution of a 24-month requirements service contract with AUSTIN FREE-NET, to provide viable opportunities for citizens to use computers and the Internet in an amount not to exceed $395,488, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed $197,744 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed $988,720.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of $32,957 is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of Management Services Department. Funding for the remaining 22 months of the base contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	Sole Source.
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Lynn Rich, Buyer I, 974-2076
Boards and Commission Action:	Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission at its June 12, 2013 meeting, unanimously approved a recommendation that Council approve this service contract with Austin Free-Net.
Related Items:	
MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9C (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

Additional Backup Information

Austin Free-Net provides professional education for those who would otherwise not have sufficient skills or knowledge of computers and the Internet, to meaningfully participate in the digital age. They do this through the installation, management and upkeep of computer workstations, primarily within City of Austin facilities convenient and trusted by the underserved communities, which is the target of the City's Community Technology Initiative. Austin Free-Net's nonprofit status allows them to provide technical services to non-profit organizations at a rate drastically reduced from the market average. Their IT department maintains the tools and expertise to keep high-traffic computer workstations used by the public. Austin Free-Net currently maintains 73 computer workstations in various City of Austin owned facilities.

The following city-owned facilities are currently served and have become known technology sources for their communities:

- Blackland Neighborhood Center
- Rosewood-Zargosa Neighborhood Center
- St. John's Community Center
- The DeWitty Center Resume Workshop
- The DeWitty Center Job Training and Employment Center
- Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center
- South Austin Neighborhood Center
- The DeWitty Center Public Computer Lab
- The DeWitty Center Bilingual Lab

Additional services provided by Austin Free-Net are:

- Record and report the number of computer workstations installed.
- Software installed on every Austin Free-Net computer workstation counts unique computer sessions. These will be reported monthly.
- Record and report the number of volunteer hours expended.
- Record and report the number of computer education classes provided.
- Clients participating in computer education classes are assessed before and after receiving computer education. Average scores will be reported monthly by site.
- Pre and Post-tests allow Austin Free-Net Trainers to observe the effects of their teaching.
- Clients are surveyed at the beginning of each computer session to determine the purpose of their visit.