



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1061, **Agenda Item #:** 2.

2/4/2021

Posting Language

Authorize expenditures for annual renewals of professional dues and memberships in national and state associations and organizations related to the electric utility industry, in an amount not to exceed \$510,822.

Lead Department

Austin Energy

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Operating Budget of Austin Energy.

Prior Council Action:

February 6, 2020- City Council approved expenditures for annual renewals of professional dues and memberships in national and state associations and organizations related to the electric utility industry.

For More Information:

Tammy Cooper, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs and Corporate Communications (512) 505-3901

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 11, 2021- Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission on a vote of 9-0, with Commissioner Stone off the dais and Commissioner Wray absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The following list identifies and describes professional membership organizations of which Austin Energy is a member. The list includes dues amounts for 2021.

1. Large Public Power Council (LPPC): \$137,880

LPPC members are focused on providing reliable and affordable electricity for the customers and communities they serve across the country. LPPC consists of 25 of the nation's largest public power systems, including Austin Energy, City Public Service Energy and Lower Colorado River Authority. LPPC provides forums where public power electric utility professionals exchange information and best practices. LPPC has several committees, task forces, and working groups that address a wide-range of issues including federal legislation, environmental rules and regulations, tax implications, cyber security, emerging trends, and electric and energy policy and regulation. LPPC hires professional consultants in each of these areas to assist the organization and its individual members.

2. American Public Power Association (APPA): \$137,942

APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. APPA represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. APPA advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. APPA provides an array of services to assist Austin Energy in fulfilling its mission to safely provide clean, affordable and reliable service. APPA provides detailed analyses of federal legislation related to the electric utility industry, and a full array of

advocacy, education, and information services and programs. APPA also coordinates disaster recovery efforts.

3. Texas Public Power Association (TPPA): \$120,000

TPPA is the state trade association representing the interests of 72 public power providers located throughout Texas. TPPA is a central vehicle through which members can extend their influence on policy matters affecting the public power industry. TPPA provides forums for the transfer of information, technology and training in the public power arena. TPPA provides service to the members by facilitating cooperation among the member systems, assisting in the solution of mutual problems, promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences, providing spokespersons for the Association concerning state and national issues, and operating a resource center for research and technical assistance and promoting a general understanding of public power.

4. M.J. Bradley & Associates (MJB&A) - Clean Energy Group: \$115,000

The Clean Energy Group (CEG) is a coalition of electric generating and electric distribution companies that share a commitment to responsible environmental stewardship. The mission of CEG is to support and enhance the efforts of its members in understanding state and federal legislative, regulatory, and policy developments in environmental and energy areas. CEG assists its members in: (1) formulating and achieving their business goals, and (2) engaging with Congress and EPA on legislation, regulations, and policies that are economically and environmentally sustainable. MJB&A coordinates CEG initiatives, outreach, and advocacy efforts, and provides administrative and technical services to the group. The CEG provides Austin Energy with a forum at the federal level to further the goals of the Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and to promote clean energy and energy efficiency.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All