



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-1938, **Agenda Item #:** 10.

6/16/2022

Posting Language

Ratify a contract with DRC Emergency Services, LLC to provide emergency brush and bulk debris removal services, in the amount of \$1,195,000.

(Note: This contract is exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Resource Recovery.

Fiscal Note

Funding was available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Operating Budget of Austin Resource Recovery.

Purchasing Language:

Ratification.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Sandy Wirtanen, at 512-974-7711 or sandy.wirtanen@austintexas.gov [<mailto:sandy.wirtanen@austintexas.gov>](mailto:sandy.wirtanen@austintexas.gov).

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 11, 2022 - Deferred unanimously by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on a 7-0 vote.

Additional Backup Information:

The contractor provided brush and bulk debris removal from public property and public right-of-way (ROW) within City limits and disposal of the debris. The work consisted of all labor, equipment, fuel, and miscellaneous costs necessary to clear, remove, load, and haul debris from public ROW areas to debris management sites and approved landfills.

Due to COVID-19 related absences and ongoing vacancies within the department, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) has suspended collection of bulk and brush routes to dedicate resources to the department's core services, which include trash, recycling, and compost collection. ARR has experienced a sharp increase in several difficult to fill and high-turnover positions. Currently, ARR has an unprecedented number of vacant driving positions and is working with the Human Resources Department to increase driver salaries and become more competitive as an employer.

If brush and bulk removal services continue to remain suspended, the City will see an increase in illegal dumping of materials. This creates health, safety, and wildfire concerns for citizens and the environment as dump sites attract vectors, mosquitoes, and other pests. A lack of brush removal could create an increased

wildfire threat to the community.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment, Safety.