



MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda
Item No. X. L
3/12/2024

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

Concurrence with the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust in adopting a Resolution ratifying the actions of the General Manager in declaring an emergency; waiving competitive bidding; and issuing emergency Purchase Order Nos. 03052020WB01 to Aerzen Rental USA and 02162021DDM02 to Lone Star Blowers, Inc., for the rental, maintenance, and service of blowers for the Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; and ratifying payments; and authorizing additional payments for anticipated continuing services and equipment until the emergency is resolved, estimated cost \$1,900,000.

Location:

Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Purpose:

To ratify the actions of the General Manager in declaring an emergency, waiving competitive bidding, and issuing emergency purchase orders. To ratify payments and authorize additional payments.

Justification:

To sustain the activated sludge aeration system at the Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and continue meeting environmental regulations.

Background:

On March 5, 2020, Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant primary activated sludge aeration basin blowers began experiencing progressive catastrophic failures. Continuous provision of compressed air to diffusers in the basin ensures that the bacteria in the wastewater sludge receives oxygen necessary to the treatment process. Therefore, blowers are essential equipment in the treatment process to continue meeting federal and state environmental regulations. As a result of these failures, the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust (OCWUT) General Manager declared an emergency and authorized the rental of blowers until a permanent solution could be completed. Initially two blowers and services were provided through the issuance of Emergency Purchase Order (EPO) number 03052020WB01 to Aerzen Rental USA. On February 8, 2021, through OCWUT ST-0166, three identically sized blowers were purchased and subsequently installed. Later, an additional blower at the Deer Creek catastrophically failed on February 16, 2021, necessitating rental of blowers and services through issuance of Emergency Purchase Order EPO 02162021DDM02 from Lone Star Blowers, Inc (Lone Star), as Aerzen Rental USA did not have additional available blowers.

Due to the age and unique configuration of the aeration system, it was necessary to continue renting blowers for an extended time to provide time for development and implementation of a long-term solution. Additionally, there was a lack of availability of replacement equipment due to the pandemic.

However, the equipment would not operate successfully since the system needed more air than the equipment could provide. As a result, an engineering evaluation was conducted, and it was determined that the new equipment and air delivery systems needed to be retooled to meet the current aeration needs of the treatment process. This effort is now being finalized through a capital project (OCWUT ST-0163).

There were no existing on-call contracts for the equipment and services needed to address this emergency. Numerous vendors were contacted for assistance with minimal success. Only Lone Star had the quantity of available immediate resources and equipment to continually satisfy the needs under the emergency. OCWUT continues renting the necessary equipment obtained via emergency purchase. Project ST-0163 is in the planning stages with anticipated construction award on or about June 2024. The rental blowers will be necessary until the construction contractor effectively replaces the blowers and completes the related system modifications.

This emergency declaration was inadvertently not ratified in a timely manner. New procedures have been put in place to ensure that future emergency declarations are timely ratified.

Source of Funds:

OCWUT-Sewer Trustee Account-WW Trust Operations-Deer Creek Plant-Other Equipment Rental (360-3510-3801100-07751-52400007)

Review:

Utilities Department

Recommendation: Concur with the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust in adopting the Resolution.