



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – September 23, 2019
City Council – October 7, 2019

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

10/07/2019

Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

Agenda Item: Approval of Bids for Project No. 8073 – Communications cabling for All City Buildings

Submitted by: Adam Jonasson
IT Director

Staff Recommended Action: Approve construction Bids and award bid in full to: RBB Electric in the amount of \$277,250.00. Approve any needed budget amendments as reviewed and approved by the Finance Department.

Committee Recommended Action: Moved to Council for approval.

Council Action: Motion by Vein, Second by Marshall to approve staff recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

BACKGROUND:

The City's existing data network was designed and implemented in 1998. The City's existing phone system was purchased in 2003. The IT Department has been planning and budgeting for the replacement of these systems for the past two years. In preparation for these new systems, an internal cable audit was performed. The audit found that a majority of our buildings were cabled with CAT 5 cable. Cat 5 Cable does not allow for the increased capacity needed for phones and increased network traffic. Working with True North Consulting, it was determined that the existing CAT 5 cable should be replaced with CAT 6 cable. It was also determined that internal fiber was needed in many buildings to better route increasing network traffic.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Working with True North Consulting, the City developed a comprehensive plan for recabling many of our City buildings. It was determined that the City would need to keep our existing data network and phone system as operational as possible during the recable project. To accomplish this, the project will involve the contractor removing the existing cabling from the wall and running and terminating new CAT 6 cables in the existing locations. The existing cable will be

brought to the outside of the wall and temporarily used until the new network equipment and phone systems are ready for use. Once the new systems are operational, the contractor will be required to remove all existing cabling.

- Through our internal cable audit, it was determined that our project would include the recabling of City Hall, Police Department Facility, PSAP 911 Facility, Public Works Facilities, Fire (1) Central, Fire (2) North, Fire (3) South, Fire (4) Public Safety Center, and the Wastewater Treatment Facility. City Hall was determined to be the base bid building and all other buildings were to be bid as alternates. This approach allowed for flexibility in project scope and cost.
- Request for bids were posted on August 24, 2019. Because of the complexity of the project and need for a complete understanding of the project, a mandatory pre-bid meeting occurred on September 4, 2019. Four bidders were present for the mandatory building tour. RBB Electric, Dell-Comm, Arvig, and Fusion Automation spent the day going through all nine locations to gain a better understanding of communication closets, existing office configurations, and limitations of pathways.
- The City received bids on September 16, 2019 (bid tabulation attached). No irregularities were found in any of the bids. RBB Electric was the low bid on the base bid as well as low bid on each of the alternate bids. RBB's total bid for all work came to a grand total of \$277,250.00. RBB met all criteria for bid and supplied all required documents and information. City staff discussed ways of moving forward and it was determined based on cost and continuity of the project that the City would move ahead with the base bid and include all alternates, for a project total of \$277,250.00.
- Funds were allocated for this project from loan and stabilization as well as funding partners in Water and Public Works. Those funds are available in the City's Computer Replacement fund.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Bid Tabulation

