



City of Grand Forks  
Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – March 23, 2026

City Council – April 6, 2026 (Revised 4/3/2026)

**APPROVED & ACCEPTED**

*by City Council*

04/06/2026

*Maureen Storstad*  
Maureen Storstad  
City Auditor

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**Agenda Item:** Bids for City Project No. 8998.01 & 8998.02 – 2026 Watermain Replacement Cottonwood St (4<sup>th</sup> Ave S to 7<sup>th</sup> Ave S) & 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N (N Washington St to 7<sup>th</sup> N 7<sup>th</sup> St)

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**Submitted by:** Engineering Department, Anthony Ryan, PE (Senior Civil Engineer)  
Christian Danielson, PE (Assistant City Engineer)

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**Staff Recommended Action:** City staff recommend Council reject the low bid for City Project 8998.01 & 8998.02 - 2026 Watermain Replacement.

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**Committee Recommended Action:** Motion by Vein, second by Lunski to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Council Action:** Motion by Berg, second by Sande to approve on consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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**BACKGROUND:**

Bids for this project were received on 4/2/2026. One bid was received and opened. The low bidder was Taggart Contracting Inc in the amount of \$1,698,499.00, which is approximately 36% over Engineer's estimate of \$1,249,949.00. The original budget amount was \$650,000 from Fund 5300. Although City staff anticipated a budget amendment would be needed for the Project, City staff feel the low bid is much higher than anticipated and therefore recommend Council reject the low bid for this Project.

City staff believe the bid price is high due to the unique challenges of the Project, tight working quarters in developed neighborhoods, and railroad coordination requirements. City staff may bring this project back in subsequent years if the Project can be fully budgeted for.

### **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- One bid was received and one bid was opened.
- The low bidder was Taggart Contracting Inc in the amount of \$1,698,499.00.
- The low bid is 36% over the Engineer's estimate.
- Engineer's estimate is \$1,249,949.00.
- City staff is recommending not to award the Contract.
- Funding source is Fund 5300 – Waterworks – Transmission & Distribution where \$650,000 has been budgeted.

### **SUPPORT MATERIALS:**

- Abstract of Bids Received
- Page 429 of the 2025 City Budget (1-page)

**Abstract of Bids Received**  
**City Project No. 8998**  
**Project Name - 2026 Watermain Replacement**  
**Bid Opening - 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 2, 2026**

Contractor	Acknowledge Addendum 1	Bid Bond	Contractor's License	Non-Collusion Affidavit	Base Bid
1 Taggart Contracting Inc PO Box 726, Thief River Falls, MN 567	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,698,499.00
2	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>					\$1,249,949.00



# Waterworks - Transmission & Distribution

G/L Account	Account Description	2023 Amended Budget	2023 Actual Amount	2024 Amended Budget	2024 Actual Amount	2025 Adopted Budget	2026 Adopted Budget	
5300.100.5340 460.0050	Education & Training	5,000.00	3,552.88	5,050.00	4,638.15	6,500.00	6,500.00	
5300.100.5340 460.0060	Travel	12,500.00	12,589.46	2,820.00	2,739.46	6,000.00	6,000.00	
5300.100.5340 460.0080	Freight	500.00	203.49	1,500.00	189.02	1,500.00	1,500.00	
5300.100.5340 460.0090	Dues	8,100.00	8,072.62	7,950.00	8,309.43	8,500.00	9,000.00	
5300.100.5340 460.0170	Attorney Fees	.00	.00	.00	7,624.37	.00	.00	
5300.100.5340 460.0240	Real Estate Tax	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	.00	1,000.00	.00	
5300.100.5340 470.0027	Community Outreach	910.00	910.00	9,050.00	9,029.44	.00	.00	
5300.100.5340 470.0040	Contingency	.00	.00	5,150.00	1,000.00	15,000.00	5,000.00	
5300.100.5340 470.0153	City Share of RRVWS project	240,000.00	160,344.72	110,100.00	140,983.30	.00	.00	
<i>Other Operating Expenses Totals</i>		\$275,960.00	\$193,198.49	\$151,300.00	\$183,037.96	\$46,000.00	\$36,500.00	
<i>Operating Transfers Out</i>								
5300.100.5340 900.0010	Operating Transfers Out	150,000.00	2,200,421.15	.00	.00	.00	150,000.00	
	<i>Level</i>					<i>Number of Units</i>	<i>Cost Per Unit</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
	Council Adopted					1.0000	150,000.00	150,000.00
								Council Adopted Totals
								\$150,000.00
<i>Operating Transfers Out Totals</i>		\$150,000.00	\$2,200,421.15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	
<i>Capital Outlay</i>								
5300.100.5340 650.0010	Work In Progress	841,917.00	926,882.23	3,493,236.00	3,284,631.65	4,830,000.00	1,038,090.00	
	<i>Level</i>					<i>Number of Units</i>	<i>Cost Per Unit</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>
	Council Adopted					1.0000	248,090.00	248,090.00
	Council Adopted					1.0000	100,000.00	100,000.00
	Council Adopted					1.0000	40,000.00	40,000.00
	Council Adopted					1.0000	650,000.00	650,000.00
								Council Adopted Totals
								\$1,038,090.00
5300.100.5340 700.0030	Communication & Elec	.00	.00	5,000.00	758.01	5,000.00	5,000.00	
5300.100.5340 700.0040	Furniture & Fixtures	.00	.00	1,200.00	.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	