APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council
07/20/2026
Maureen Storstad
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City Auditor

City of Grand Forks Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – July 13, 2026
City Council – July 20, 2026

Agenda Item: Lead Service Line Replacement Project

Submitted by: Melanie Parvey, Water Works Director
Christian Danielson, City Engineer

Staff Recommended Action: Approve the Agreement for City of Grand Forks Task Order No 9071.1 for a joint design effort between the City's Engineering Department and Houston Engineering in the amount of $233,291 to include combined watermain and lead service line replacement project planned for 2027 as well as approval of the Lead Service Line Replacement Agreement for review and approval of the City Attorney's office

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

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

BACKGROUND:

The City of Grand Forks has requested and received approval from DWSRF to implement a lead service replacement line program. This is a requirement of the EPA's Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvement for Service Line Inventory and Replacement Requirements October 2024. See attachment.

Initially, the City's funding request of $375,000 was approved in 2022 with 90% of these funds being loan forgiveness. With success of this, the City was able to receive additional funding, $1,050,000. This was supposed to be 66% loan forgiveness but was 75% loan forgiveness as the State was able to use their 75% loan forgiveness funding for our project. This funding has all been committed.

The third request was for $16m. The Department of Environmental Quality DEQ agreed to allocate $12,825,000 at 66% loan forgiveness to Grand Forks. This will allow us to replace more lead service lines in Grand Forks with federal funding.

The Lead and Copper Improvement rule requires that the City of Grand Forks have a lead service line replacement program in place as well as replace all the lead service lines by 2037. The City's share will become 34% with this approved funding which is proposed in the 2027 budget and is in our current CIP for the next 5 years. We will need to consider

securing additional low interest loan funding to complete the final replacements as we approach the end of the replacement program.

The City of Grand Forks owns the watermain and the resident owns everything up to the watermain. The description of this is found in Chapter 15 of City Code, 15-0202. - Rules and regulations governing water use, which is attached.

Because of this, an agreement was developed to use with the homeowner for this part of the project which is attached. This has been sent to the Attorney's office to review. Our approach for obtaining signatures on this document is as follows:

- Property owners within the 2027 project area, that have a lead service line requiring replacement, will receive an informational packet via mail. The mailed information will include a QR code for the property owner to access a digital survey where their contact information (phone number, email, etc.) will be collected.
- A designated representative from Houston Engineering will be notified when a survey response is received and will work to contact the property owner to clarify responses to the survey to ensure that all necessary information for design and construction is accurately documented. Additionally, the representative from Houston will work with property owners to ensure they know what to expect during construction of their service line replacement, and provide the agreement to them (via mail, email, or in-person) for review.
- Through these outreach efforts Houston will work with property owners to get the agreement signed electronically or manually and will provide all signed agreements to Public Works.

The intent is to finalize the design and bid the project at the end of November to get competitive bids which will be brought back to Council for approval.

The watermain will be replaced with the lead service lines along that watermain as well as the stand alone lead service lines identified in the area as shown in the attachment.

Homeowners can continue to work with approved contractors to replace lead service lines within the community; some contractors have quotes approved into 2028 to continue these replacements.

Also in order to comply with DWSRF, Houston Engineering will be putting together a facility plan that will allow us to continue working on these projects for the next five years. We will host a public open house August 11 at 5:30 pm at Council Chambers.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Watermain replacement project is planned for Cottonwood Street from 4th Ave. to 9th Ave.
    - This is revised from 2026 (4th Ave to 7th Ave) which was not awarded
    - Funding is available to assist with planning and design of this project from not awarding a project this year
    - Public Open House August 11 at 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm in Council Chambers regarding this project

- 2025 Lead Inventory reported:
    - 920 lead, 69 galvanized, and 651 unknown service lines. Unknowns are classified as lead until confirmed otherwise.
    - Staff continues to update this list when lines are replaced or identified.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- November 3 2025 Lead Service Line Replacement Project Funding Council Staff Report
- Chapter 15 Section 15 of City Code regarding water use and repairs
- Task Order No 9071.1
- Lead Service Line Replacement Agreement between City and Homeowner
- 2027 LSLR and WMR Project Boundary for Construction