

ITEM #: 40
 DATE: 3-14-23
 DEPT: ELEC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AIRPORT UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE CROSSING

BACKGROUND:

Recent additions to the Bricktowne Development along S. Duff Avenue and the ISU Research Park have placed increased demand on the City’s electric system south of U.S. Hwy. 30. To support this growth and provide for increased reliability, Electric Services staff plans to install a buried electric line that would cross underneath the Ames Airport and would tie the feeder serving the ISU Research Park (South Riverside Drive) to South Duff Avenue, via the Bricktowne Development.

On January 24, 2023, City Council approved preliminary plans and specifications for Airport Underground Line Crossing. This will allow a contractor to install the substructure (conduit and vaults) for this line.

Bid documents were issued to nine firms and two plan rooms. The bid was advertised on the Current Bid Opportunities section of the Purchasing webpage and a Legal Notice was published on the websites of a contractor plan room service with statewide circulation.

On March 1, 2023, two bids were received.

BIDDER	TOTAL BID
Voltmer Inc. Decorah, IA	\$ 217,375.00
Intren, Inc. Des Moines, IA	Non-Responsive
<i>Engineer’s Estimate</i>	<i>\$ 200,000.00</i>

Staff reviewed the bids and concluded that the apparent low base bid submitted by Voltmer Inc. in the amount of \$217,315.00 (inclusive of Iowa sales tax) is acceptable.

The FY 2022/23 Operating Budget for Underground System Improvements includes \$331,000 for this work. The cable will be taken from inventory and charged to this project.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept final plans and specifications and award a contract to Voltmer Inc, Decorah, IA, for the Airport Underground Line Crossing, in the amount of \$217,375.
2. Reject bids and direct staff to rebid.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This work is necessary to support existing and future growth south of U.S. 30. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative #1 as stated above.