

ITEM #: 22
DATE: 05-23-23
DEPT: PR

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CEMETERY MOWING AND TRIMMING

BACKGROUND:

Since 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance of all three municipal cemeteries. The three cemeteries include Ames Municipal, 310 E. 9th St., Ontario Cemetery, 720 North Dakota Ave., and the Bill Sunday Family Cemetery, 605 Billy Sunday Rd. Since 2017, the turf at Ames Municipal and Ontario Cemeteries have been mowed and trimmed by a contractor. On May 10, 2022, City Council awarded a contract to Pitts Lawn & Tree Service for mowing and trimming services for the Ames Municipal Cemetery and the Ontario Cemetery for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This contract also included four optional renewal periods.

The period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 is the first of the four optional renewal periods. Pitts Lawn & Tree Services indicated a 3% price increase for each renewal period and the price for the upcoming period is as shown below:

Successful Bidder:	AMES MUNICIPAL CEMETERY (FY2024 Cost per mowing and trimming round)	ONTARIO CEMETERY (FY2024 Cost per mowing and trimming round)
Pitts Lawn & Tree Service, Huxley, IA	\$3,090/round	\$463.50/round

On average the cemeteries are mowed approximately 15 times per year. The FY 2023/24 budget includes \$53,302.50 for this work.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a contract for Cemetery Mowing and Trimming to Pitts Lawn & Tree Service, Huxley, IA, in an amount not to exceed \$53,302.50. (\$3,553.50 x 15 rounds)
2. Reject all bids and attempt to rebid the cemetery mowing and trimming services
3. Refer back to staff.

CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Mowing and trimming cemeteries is a service that not many mowing contractors are willing to take on. Pitt’s Lawn and Tree Service has been a reliable contractor for the past years to complete the mowing. Staff is pleased with the work Pitts Lawn and Tree Service provided in the first year of the contract. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.