



Legislation Text

File #: 0420-2024, Version: 1

This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Utilities to modify the service contract with Bermex, Inc. to add funding in the amount of \$950,000.00 for continuation of Water Meter Reading Services for the Division of Water.

Ordinance 0187-2023 previously extended the term of contract through July 31, 2024.

Ordinance 1466-2018 authorized the Director of Public Utilities (DPU) to enter into contract with Bermex, Inc. to provide Water Meter Reading Services, recurring monthly and quarterly for predetermined routes within the City of Columbus. Services include data collection through manual reads and radio reads using DPU's equipment.

DPU has been working on an Enhanced Meter Project (EMP) since 2018 which will upgrade the City's metering system. The implementation is expected to continue through 2024. The intent of this contract is to bridge the gap between the start of the AMI implementation and its conclusion, where it is expected that most meters will be able to be read remotely.

The Department of Public Utilities solicited Competitive Bids for these services in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 329 (RFQ008758). 76 vendors were solicited. Two (2) bids were received and opened on 4/27/18. The Division of Water recommended the contract be awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidder, Bermex, Inc.

The original contract was for one (1) year, from the date of execution (August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019), with the option to renew for five (5) additional years based upon mutual agreement, budgeted funds, and approval by City Council. For each renewal year, funds for service shall be reviewed and expenditures shall be approved by ordinance of City Council, and the appropriation and certification of funds by the City Auditor.

The maximum obligation of the City, for service described in this agreement, is limited to the amount of \$950,000.00. If unforeseen issues or difficulties are encountered that would require additional funding, a modification would be required.

SUPPLIER: Bermex Inc. Vendor# 015334 (38-3326896), Expires 10/13/2024. Bermex Inc. does not hold MBE/FBE status.

The company is not debarred according to the Excluded Party Listing System of the Federal Government or prohibited from being awarded a contract according to the Auditor of State Unresolved Findings for Recovery Certified Search.

1. Amount of additional funds: Total amount of additional funds needed for this contract modification No. 14 is \$950,000.00 The Division will request additional future modifications as additional work orders are approved. Total contract amount including this renewal is \$8,945,000.00.
2. Reasons additional funds were not foreseen: The potential need for additional funds was known and provided for at the time of the initial contract. This modification is to provide the additional funding necessary to pay for services in 2024.
3. Reason other procurement processes were not used: The potential need to modify this contract to add funding was provided for in the original contract.
4. How was cost determined: The cost, terms and, conditions are in accordance with the original agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$950,000.00 is budgeted in the Water Operating Fund and available for this contract. **This ordinance is contingent on the passage of the 2024 Operating Budget, Ordinance 3012-2023**

\$1,717,861.17 was spent in 2023

\$1,574,834.38 was spent in 2022

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION: This ordinance is being submitted as an emergency because, without emergency action, water meter reading could cease which will negatively affect the accounts receivables for the department.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Public Utilities to modify the service contract with Bermex, Inc. to provide Water Meter Reading Services for the Division of Water; and to authorize the expenditure of \$950,000.00 from the Water Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$950,000.00)

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 1466-2018, passed by the Columbus City Council on June 11, 2018, authorized the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water, to enter into a contract with Bermex, Inc. for Water Meter Reading Services; and

WHEREAS, the original contract was for one (1) year from the date of execution, with the option to renew for five (5) additional one-year terms based upon mutual agreement of the parties, budgeted funds, and approval by City Council; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance authorizes the modification of this contract to add funding and the expenditure of \$950,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, from the Water Operating Fund; and

WHEREAS, this modification is in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Code relating to contract modifications and renewals; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Utilities, in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into contract for Meter Reading Services with Bermex, Inc., so there is no interruption in meter reading services, all for the immediate preservation of the public health, peace, property and safety; now, therefore; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of Public Utilities be and hereby is authorized to modify the contract with Bermex, Inc. for the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Water.

SECTION 2. That said firm shall conduct the work to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Utilities and the Administrator of the Division of Water.

SECTION 3. That the expenditure of \$950,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in object class 03 Services, Water Operating Fund 6000, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 5. That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance.

SECTION 6. That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this Ordinance is

declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.