



Legislation Text

File #: 1785-2016, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes the Director of Finance and Management to enter into a contract with ADS LLC for the purchase of 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Sewer System Engineering Section has been monitoring flow in the collection system over the last 20 years and we currently have over 230 flow meters and rain gauges deployed. As the wireless carrier starts to phase out the 2G network at the end of year 2016, we are in the need of replacing our meters to the latest 3G standards. We are pursuing these replacements with a bid waiver of City Code Chapter 329 as outlined below:

- 1) Maintain data consistency - Our consent order plan (Blueprint Columbus) was developed using the collection system model, and the model was developed and calibrated based on the flow monitoring data. A change to a different manufacturer could lead to improper assessments to the improvements in the collection system due to the calibration differences associated with different flow monitoring manufacturers.
- 2) With a different manufacturer, the new data will be in a completely different format from the existing database. It will force us to purchase the new manufacturer's software, and will significantly increase the difficulty for data management as we host two separate databases.
- 3) Our flow monitor crew was well trained in both ADS flow meter hardware and software. If we change to a new manufacturer, it will require a steep learning curve for our crew.
- 4) Because the 2G wireless network will stop working by the end of year 2016, we will lose communication to our meters. There is urgency to purchase new meters now and replace them before the loss of communication.

This waiver is only intended to cover the one time purchase of 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges. In the future, we will follow the competitive bid process to acquire new meters.

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.

SUPPLIER: ADS LLC Contract Compliance Number: 80-0355805, expires 06/02/2018.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$338,295.00 is needed and budgeted for this purchase. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Sewer System Engineering Section did not purchase any flowmeters or rain gauges in 2014 or 2015.

To authorize the Director of Finance and Management to enter into a contract with ADS, LLC for the purchase of 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage; to authorize the expenditure of \$338,295.00 from the Sewer Operating Fund; and to waive the competitive bidding provisions of City Code Chapter 329. (\$338,295.00)

WHEREAS, the 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges are required by the Division of Sewerage and Drainage to replace our meters to the latest 3G standards; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Sewerage and Drainage, recommends ADS LLC be awarded this contract for a total amount of \$338,295.00; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to waive the competitive bidding provisions of City Code Chapter 329 in order to enter into contract with ADS LLC, because we are in need of replacing our meters to the latest 3G standards; and

WHEREAS, it has become necessary in the usual daily operation in the Department of Public Utilities to authorize the Director of Finance and Management to enter into a contract with ADS LLC, for the preservation of public health, peace, property and safety; now therefore,

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

SECTION 1. That the Director of Finance and Management be and is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with ADS, LLC, 1300 Meridian St., Ste 3000, Huntsville, AL 35801, for the purchase of 80 flow meters and 23 rain gauges for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage.

SECTION 2. 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 3. That the expenditure of \$338,295.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, be and is hereby authorized in Fund 6100 (Sewer Operating-Sanitary); in object class 02 Materials and Supplies per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That this Council finds it in the City's best interest to waive the competitive bidding provisions of Columbus City Codes Chapter 329.

SECTION 5. That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.