



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Jim Scholl, City Manager

FROM: John Paul Castro, Utilities Director

CC: Greg Veliz, Asst. City Manager – Operations
Sarah Spurlock, Asst. City Manager – Administration

DATE: April 17, 2015

RE: **Approval of Staff Ranking of Financial Consultants Responding to RFQ 15-002 and Authorization for the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute Contracts**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution will approve staff ranking of firms responding to RFQ 15-002: Financial Consulting Services; authorizing staff to negotiate contracts; authorizing the City Manager to enter into contracts with the selected firms.

BACKGROUND:

The City has a need for financial consulting firms to assist staff as we create our rate models for utility budgets in wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste. These firms help staff analyze rates, revenues, capital expenditures, budgetary planning, along with other tasks. They also assist with the utility budget presentations to the City Commission.

As the City has multiple projects of all sizes and disciplines simultaneously, it typically contracts with multiple consultants to handle the workload.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

City staff advertised a request for qualifications that had a bid opening on April 2. Staff has reviewed the responses for RFQ 15-002 from the following firms:

- Arcadis U.S., Inc
- Black and Veatch
- CDM Smith
- Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.
- Willdan Financial Services

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

The ranking committee consisted of city staff Michael Turner, Thaddeus Cohen, Karen Olsen, Elizabeth Ignaffo, and Marilyn Wilbarger which convened as advertised on April 23rd in public session at the City Clerk's conference room. The final rankings are as follows:

Company Rankings for RFQ #15-002 Financial Consultants

Ranking of Proposers					
Sewer/Stormwater			Solid Waste		
1	Arcadis	284	1	Arcadis	282
2	Black and Veatch	282	2	CDM Smith	281
3	Willdan	259	3	Willdan	259
4	Raftelis	226	4		

City staff ranked the firm's proposals on a 200 point scale for Stormwater/Wastewater, a 200 point scale for solid waste, and a 300 point scale for additional services, including capital financing support and special rate determination.

Staff has historically requested separate proposals for waste/stormwater and solid waste. The RFQ was split to allow firms who are more specialized to submit proposals on either discipline without submitting for both.

City staff is requesting City Commission approval of the evaluation ranking and authorization for the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract with the three (3) highest ranked firms. If negotiations fail to result in a contract, all proposals will be rejected and a new RFQ will be advertised.

Consultant contracts will be based on hourly rates and reimbursables as negotiated by the City Manager. Financial services will be awarded on a task order basis, pursuant to City ordinance purchasing guidelines.

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. The City Commission can approve city staff ranking and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute contracts, based on rates of pay and reimbursable expenses to the three (3) highest ranked firms, which include Arcadis U.S., Inc, Black and Veatch, and CDM Smith. City staff will engage financial consultants on a task order basis. Arcadis U.S., Inc. has the ability to complete rate studies for solid waste, stormwater, and waste water. Both Black & Veatch and CDM Smith ranked highest in their respective disciplines giving the City the best option in each, should Arcadis U.S., Inc. be unavailable or should the City decide to split the work load.
2. The City Commission can approve city staff ranking and authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute contracts based on rates of pay and reimbursable expenses to Arcadis U.S., Inc. and Willdan Financial Services as both companies scored within the top 3 in both sections of the RFQ. Black & Veatch would become the third highest ranking overall. This option gives the City two firms that can cover the three rate study disciplines, but eliminates CDM Smith who greatly outscored Willdan in the Solid Waste section of the RFQ evaluation.
3. The City Commission could disapprove staff ranking for the financial consultant RFQ. This would leave the City without financial consultants on contract. All services in need would have to be

formally advertised for each individual task. This creates large lead times for staff and is very costly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact of approving any of the options listed above. Contracts will be executed after the resolution is passed and services requested on a task order basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Commission choose option 1, approving the evaluation team ranking from city staff and allowing the City Manager to negotiate and execute contracts for financial services with Arcadis U.S., Inc, Black & Veatch, and CDM Smith. These three companies ranked far higher than the other firms in the two sections of the RFQ.