

ITEM #: 22  
DATE: 08-13-24  
DEPT: PW

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION

**BACKGROUND:**

Since 1998, the City of Ames, through the Resource Recovery System, has contracted with Metro Waste Authority (MWA) to operate a satellite Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) collection program. MWA owns the small building where the collected materials are received and stored for pick-up. The collected materials are then transported to MWA's facility in Bondurant, Iowa, and are safely processed in accordance with State and Federal regulations. Resource Recovery staff members receive HHM training from MWA and work with the customers when they drop-off HHM.

Several agencies across Iowa are participating in this program to keep costs at a reasonable level. The 2021-2024 contract cost was \$0.94 per capita, or a total of \$82,580 annually. A new contract for FY 2024/25 through FY 2026/27 has been prepared. The proposed new agreement includes a rate of \$1.02 per capita for the first year, with the second and third years being increased in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

The first year represents an 8.5% increase in per capita costs, plus an increase in the per capita population, for a total cost of \$98,838. Although the contract price has increased, the amount of hazardous waste collected has increased significantly over the past several years. The total weight collected increased by 16.8% over a two-year period, and the weight collected per customer has increased by 28.8%, as shown in the table below:

| YEAR | CUSTOMERS | TOTAL WEIGHT | LBS/CUSTOMER |
|------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 2021 | 581       | 28,263       | 48.65        |
| 2022 | 479       | 24,846       | 51.87        |
| 2023 | 527       | 33,019       | 62.65        |

Resource Recovery's program far exceeds the national average of 20 pounds per customer. Over one-half of the material is oil-based paints or paint-related products. While the program has the benefit of assuring that the materials are properly disposed of in an environmentally safe manner, **the HHM service is also a requirement of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit.**

The general provisions of the proposed three-year agreement remain the same. The agreement contains a cancellation clause which the City may exercise in the event funding in future years is not available. The City Attorney and Risk Manager have reviewed the agreement and approve it as to form.

The \$98,838 in costs are divided into four equal quarterly payments. The FY 2024/25 Resource Recovery budget contains \$85,000 for this contract. Prior to the final payment, the Resource Recovery budget will be amended to cover the \$13,838 shortfall from savings identified elsewhere in the operating budget. Staff anticipates savings to exist in the Resource Recovery CIP for FY 2024/25 that can be used for this purpose.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the proposed 2024-2027 intergovernmental agreement with MWA for a satellite HHM collection and disposal operation at an annual cost of \$98,838, with annual increases for subsequent years based on (CPI-U).
2. Do not approve the proposed agreement.

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is important for the City to continue this service in order to provide an easy, proactive means for the public to dispose of hazardous materials. In addition to providing a means for keeping these pollutants out of the environment, this service is a requirement of the City's NPDES stormwater permit. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manger that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as noted above.