

ITEM #:	22
DATE:	05-12-26
DEPT:	W&PC

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY THREE-YEAR BIOSOLIDS HAULING CONTRACT

BACKGROUND:

The City of Ames Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) produces approximately 30,000 gallons of Class II biosolids each day. Throughout the year, biosolids are stored in the facility's biosolids storage lagoon and secondary digester. Ultimately, these solids are disposed of by land application as fertilizer on City-owned farm ground adjacent the WPCF.

On July 8, 2025, City Council awarded a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$104,687.50 to Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping of Peosta, Iowa, to complete the first year of a three-year biosolids disposal contract at the WPCF. The contract is renewable annually for up to a total of three years, dependent upon successful performance by the contractor each year. All work under the FY 2025/26 contract was completed to the satisfaction of staff and in accordance with the contract. A total of 3,089,729 gallons of biosolids were land-applied from the digester and lagoon at a final cost of \$89,787.65. **Staff is recommending that Council accept completion of the work under the FY 2025/26 contract.**

The bid for FY 2026/27 includes an estimated quantity of three million gallons at a unit cost of \$0.0269 per gallon, plus \$5,000 for mobilization to the site, for an estimated annual total of \$85,700 for lagoon biosolids disposal. **Wulfekuhle provided a uniform bid price that is constant across all three years of the contract with no annual cost escalators.**

Because the work takes place in a very short window each fall, staff is recommending that the award include a not-to-exceed amount that allows for up to a 25% increase in the quantities disposed. The rationale for this unusual step is that it would not be possible to obtain Council approval for a change order on short notice if one was necessary during the fall hauling window. **Staff is recommending that the FY 2026/27 contract be awarded to Wulfekuhle, and that the contract's not-to-exceed amount be for a maximum total of \$107,125. The FY 2026/27 operating budget includes \$115,000 for this work.**

ALTERNATIVES:

1. a. Accept completion of the FY 2025/26 ("Year One") contract in a final amount of \$89,787.65

b. Award the FY 2026/27 ("Year Two") contract for biosolids disposal to Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping of Peosta, Iowa, with payment based on the unit prices bid of \$5,000 lump sum per mobilization, \$0.0269 per gallon for annual lagoon biosolids hauling operations, and \$0.10 per gallon for digester cleaning with the total contract amount not to exceed \$107,125.

2. Accept completion of Year One, and direct staff to solicit new bids for FY 2026/27.
3. Accept completion of Year One, and direct staff to purchase the equipment necessary to perform the work with City staff.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Disposal of biosolids at the WPC Facility is necessary for uninterrupted operation of the facility and continued permit compliance. Wulfekuhle Injection & Pumping has successfully completed the work required for FY 2025/26. The contract can be renewed for a second year with no increase in the unit pricing. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.