

ITEM #: 2
DATE: 08-06-24
DEPT: PW

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: **2023/24 AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (WILDLIFE FENCE)**

BACKGROUND:

The FY 2023/24 Airport Improvement Program includes the installation of a barrier fence to limit animal crossings at James Herman Banning Ames Municipal Airport. This essential safety project aims to mitigate animal strike risks and restrict unauthorized access to runways and taxiways with minimal disruption to airport operations.

- Division 1: Includes all Federal funding eligible items. The base bid includes two fencing types: 1) Eight-foot chain link with animal skirting, and 2) Eight-foot welded wire mesh style with animal skirting. Alternate A is for all chain link fencing.
- Division 2: Includes a small portion of fence along S. Riverside where a drainage way crosses in front of Runway Approach 13. To avoid costly culvert extensions, the fence alignment leaves the Airport property onto City right-of-way, which the FAA will not fund. Alternate B is for PVC coated fence in the terminal area.
- Division 3: Includes motorizing two gate access points with access control. This item is not eligible for Federal aid under the proposed grant funding but can be paid for with State funds (from the Iowa DOT).

On July 30, 2024, one bid was received as follows:

Bid Divisions	Engineer's Estimate	Minturn, Inc. Brooklyn, IA
Division 1 - Base Bid	\$2,600,000	\$2,514,655
Division 1 - Alt A	\$204,600	\$17,400
Division 2 - Base Bid	\$9,900	\$7,500
Division 2 - Alt B	\$3,580	\$3,450
Division 3 - Base Bid	\$64,750	\$73,000
Totals	\$2,882,830	\$2,616,005

The City's consultant, Bolton & Menk, has reviewed the bid submittal from Minturn, Inc., Brooklyn, IA, and has determined that it is acceptable. The consultant also performed reference checks on the bidder and found them to be satisfactory. The attached letter from Bolton & Menk indicates a recommendation to award the Division 1 Base Bid, Division 1 Bid Alternate 'A', Division 2 Base Bid, Division 2 Bid Alternate 'B', and Division 3 Bid Alternate 'C.'

Revenues and expenses for this project are as follows:

Revenues	Costs	Expenses	Costs
Federal AIP Funds	\$2,626,519	Consultant Services:	
Iowa DOT Funds	\$58,400	Administration	\$1,000
Airport Improvement Funds (previously budgeted)	\$218,000	CATEX/Env. Review	\$77,700
Airport Improvement Funds (new)	\$99,386	Design	\$147,200
		Cont. Inspection	\$160,400
		Contractor:	
		Construction	\$2,616,005
Totals	\$3,002,305	Totals	\$3,002,305

The revised expenses require \$99,386 in additional funds to be allocated from the Airport Improvement Fund to accomplish the project. Sufficient funding exists in the available balance of the Airport Improvement Fund for this purpose.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. a.) Accept the report of bids for the 2023/24 Airport Improvements Program (Wildlife Fence) project.
b.) Approve the Federal grant application for the project.
c.) Approve final plans and specification and award the 2023/24 Airport Improvements Program (Wildlife Fence) project to Minturn, Inc. of Brooklyn, IA in the amount of \$2,616,005, contingent upon receipt of all grants necessary to fund the project.
2. Reject the bids and direct staff to reprogram the project to a future year based on funding availability.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Awarding this project will significantly enhance the safety of Ames Airport users and local wildlife by reducing the risk of animal strikes by aircraft during airport operations. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as shown above.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ames-Wildlife Fencing- Engineers Letter of Recommendation.pdf](#)
[Ames-Wildlife Fencing-Grant Application-7-30-2024.pdf](#)