

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Gail Jorgenson, GIS Program Manager
Jon Henderson, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Professional Services Agreement with Ayres Associates Inc. for Aerial Imagery and LiDAR Data Download Tool

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Vendor/Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Professional Services Agreement with Ayres Associates Inc. for Aerial Imagery and LiDAR Data Download Tool

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND: The City of Bozeman purchases aerial imagery and LiDAR data on an annual and three year cycle respectively. This data is used to support regulatory, land management, planning, and engineering projects. The City proactively shares its imagery and LiDAR with our contractors, Montana State University and community stake holders.

Sharing this data fosters collaboration, innovation, supports transparency and public engagement while improving operational efficiencies. However, imagery and LiDAR data sets are quite large and are difficult to share by traditional file sharing methods. Currently data is being shared via external hard drives which are expensive to purchase and are subject to failure, supply of the drives is limited and they are loaned on a handshake agreement with the hopes that the hard drive along with data will be returned to the City.

The Imagery and Download Tool being developed for the City by Ayres Associates Inc. provides a number of key advantages for sharing data including:

- Data will be stored and accessed from an Amazon Web Bucket – no internal IT resources will be used
- The application will be built using ESRI technology that will easily integrate with the City's [Open Data Portal](#)
- Application updates that need to occur to the online application will be managed by Ayres
- Ayres Associates Inc is our vendor for imagery and LiDAR data collection.

When the new data is available they will add the new data to the Amazon Web Bucket and the online mapping tool

- The Amazon Web Bucket will act as an offsite repository for the City's imagery and LiDAR (serving as backup to external drives)
- The tool will be available 24/7
- City staff will integrate the tool into the City's [Open Data Portal](#), and then Ayres Associates Inc. will be responsible for management of the application and data freeing up City GIS resources to work on other projects

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As directed by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The total project cost to the City will be \$22,364 over four fiscal years. Adequate funding exists for fees associated with the current fiscal year using \$11,800 allocated within the Strategic Services Department FY26 budget.

Attachments:

[Professional Services Agreement - Imagery and LiDAR Download Tool_2025-2028.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: July 30, 2025