

## REPORT TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN

**DATE:** February 23, 2026

**FROM:** John Fox, Public Utilities Director

**SUBJECT:** Rejection of Bids for Service Line Investigation Project TC2026-14

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to obtain Board of Mayor and Aldermen approval to reject the bid received for the Service Line Investigation Project TC2026-14.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Service Line Investigation project involves potholing and physically inspecting both the public and private sides of water service lines at approximately 2,700 locations throughout the Town, as required under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).

Based on records research performed by the Town's consultant during development of the service line inventory, approximately 2,700 of the Town's roughly 20,000 service connections were identified for physical verification. The Town submitted its initial service line inventory to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in October 2024, which allowed for unknown material classifications.

Under the LCRI, the Town must submit an updated "baseline" service line inventory by November 1, 2027. If all service lines are verified and confirmed to be non-lead by that date, the Town may be classified as an all-non-lead system, eliminating the need for a Service Line Replacement Plan and ongoing public lead education notifications. This project is necessary to ensure regulatory compliance and protect public health.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On February 11, 2026, the Purchasing Division opened the bid received for the Service Line Inspection Project (TC2026-14). Three vendors requested copies of the bid specifications; however, the Town received only one responsive bid. Barnes & Brower, Inc. submitted a total bid in the amount of \$1,978,463.62, with a unit price of \$369.53 per pothole, requiring two potholes per service location to inspect both the public and private sides.

The submitted unit pricing was significantly higher than anticipated based on the Town's consultant's estimate of probable construction cost. Given the limited bidder participation and the elevated pricing received, staff is recommending rejection of the bid. This will allow time to review the bid documents, evaluate potential revisions, and re-advertise the project in an effort to attract a broader pool of qualified contractors and achieve more competitive pricing.

### **BUDGET IMPACT:**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Service Line Investigation TC2026-14 Bid.pdf](#)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

To reject the bid for the Service Line Investigation Project TC2026-14.

**Board Action:** Motion By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Vote Total</b>	<b>Hall</b>	<b>Jordan</b>	<b>Robbins</b>	<b>Marshall</b>	<b>Stamps</b>	<b>Fraser</b>
<b>Yes</b>						
<b>No</b>						
<b>Abstain</b>						