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ITEM ID:	**2026-340-0**
TRANSMITTAL DATE:	**November 6, 2026**
MEETING DATE:	**November 13, 2026**
TO:	**Board of Directors**
FROM:	**Tom Schamber, Chief Financial Officer**
SUBJECT:	**Contract No. EP254-27 - Repair & Return of Wheelsets and Gearboxes - Recommendation to Award - UTC RAS, Inc**

Issue

Repair and return services of locomotive and passenger car wheelsets and locomotive gearboxes are required to support the maintenance and safe operation of the Authority's rolling stock fleets. Two bids were received and UTC RAS, Inc was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to award Contract No. EP254-27 to UTC RAS, Inc for the Repair and Return of Locomotive and Rail Car Wheelsets and Locomotive Gearboxes for a not-to-exceed amount of $7,326,433 for a base term of three years, with a single two-year renewal option. The option may be exercised at the discretion of the CEO. This award is subject to the resolution of any timely submitted protest.

Strategic Commitment

The report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by deploying new technologies and processes to enhance the safety and security of our riders, employees and the communities we serve. Timely replacement of locomotive and rail car wheelsets and gearboxes are necessary to maintain the Authority's rolling stock in a state of good repair.

Background

Locomotive and passenger rail car wheels wear out over the years as the equipment is in service. Worn axles are sent in to the repair service supplier to get new wheels pressed on to them in accordance with the Authority's specifications. Locomotive gearboxes fail over time due to stress caused by the interaction of the gearbox and the traction motors. Failed gearboxes are then sent to the repair supplier to rebuild according to the OEM specifications. Contract No. EP254-27 allows the Authority to procure these repair & return services needed to ensure wheelsets and gearboxes are available to support timely maintenance of the Authority's rolling stock.

Discussion

On April 7, 2026, the Authority issued an Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. EP254-27 for the Repair & Return of Wheelsets and Gearboxes. The IFB was posted on the Authority's online procurement portal and notifications were sent to 607 registered firms. The Authority also advertised the RFP in publications in the five member counties and in diversity newspapers. 39 prospective bidders viewed the IFB on the procurement portal. Three prospective bidders attended the virtual Pre-Proposal Conference held on April 14, 2026. There was a job walk held, only one bidder attended.

The IFB was extended for several months pending an investigation and subsequently the technical specifications were revised. The bidders were notified and the technical specifications were updated on August 18, 2026.

The Authority received two bids by the submission date of September 16, 2026, both were found to be responsive and responsible. The Bids are listed below.

	Independent Cost Estimate	ORX Railway Corporation	**UTC RAS, Inc**
Base	$6,669,600.00	$7,619,928.00	**$4,259,448.44**
Option	$4,616,000.00	$5,390,742.00	**$3,066,984.06**
Total	$11,285,600.00	$13,010,670.00	**$7,326,432.50**
+ / -		+15.28%	**-35.08%**

The bid from UTC, is 35.08% below the Independent Cost Estimate and found to be fair and reasonable.

Budget Impact

The amount for which contract authority is requested for FY27 is $976,857. This amount is

expected to cover 8 months of the fiscal year at an estimated need of $122,107 monthly. The amount is included in the operating budget for FY27 and is subject to the adoption of that FY27 Budget. Funding for subsequent fiscal years will be requested through the annual budget process.

Next Steps

Upon award by the Board, staff will execute Contract No. EP254-27 with UTC RAS, Inc. Purchase Orders will be issued on an as-needed basis.

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Approved by:	Tom Schamber, Chief Financial Officer

Attachment(s)

Presentation - EP254-27 UTC