



Item: Postpone Bid Award: GFPD Evidence Building Expansion, O.F. 1684.3
From: Finance Department, Police Department
Initiated By: Finance Department
Presented By: Sylvia Tarman, ARPA Project Manager
Action Requested: Postpone Consideration of Bids and Contract Approval

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (postpone/not postpone) consideration of a bid award and contract approval for the GFPD Evidence Building Expansion Project until the February 20, 2024 Commission meeting.”

2. Mayor requests a second to the motion, public comment, Commission discussion, and calls for the vote.

Staff Recommendation:

Postpone consideration of a bid award and contract approval for the GFPD Evidence Building Expansion Project until the February 20, 2024 Commission meeting.

Summary:

The GFPD Evidence Building Expansion project includes construction of an approx. 8,000 sf addition onto the south side of the existing Police Dept. building. The project went out for bid in December of 2023, and bids were opened January 23, 2024. After Staff prepared a recommendation on the bid award, a formal protest was filed regarding the responsiveness of the apparent low bid. City Staff suggests postponing the bid award to allow staff additional time to fully evaluate the formal protest.

Background:

The Police Department has been steadily facing overcrowding of its evidence storage areas over the last few years. Newer retention requirements and increased crime rate has continued to exacerbate that problem, and for those reasons this project was identified as a Tier 1 ARPA project in April of 2022. City Staff began working with BSpark Architecture to come up with preliminary design options, then final designs based on budget and functionality requirements. The construction contract was put out for bid in mid-December and bids were opened January 23, 2024.

The bid was broken up into a base bid plus contingency for the construction of the facility, with 2 Additional Alternates. Wadsworth Builders and James Talcott Construction provided bids for the project. Upon reviewing the bids after the bid opening, City staff noticed a different interpretation in the way Wadsworth and James Talcott Construction presented their base bid and contingency numbers. The bid form indicated that a 2.5% contingency of the base bid price was to be included in the base bid price. Wadsworth interpreted this as adding the contingency line item to the base bid, whereas James Talcott Construction interpreted this as adding the contingency line item to the total base bid. Regardless, this discrepancy did not change the overall lowest bid.

Talcott Construction, through its legal counsel, has filed a formal protest as to the bid award. City staff are thoroughly reviewing the issues raised by the protest. Therefore, City Staff suggests postponing the bid award to allow staff additional time to prepare its recommendation to the Commission.

Fiscal Impact

This project is being awarded through ARPA Funds.

Alternatives:

The City Commission could vote to not postpone the bid award. However, in order to fully consider the issues raised by the protest, City Staff needs additional time.

Concurrences:

This action is supported by the staff of the Finance and Police Departments.

Attachments/Exhibits:

None