



**Item:** Water Meter Equipment Purchases for FY 2017  
**From:** Utilities Division  
**Initiated By:** Public Works Department  
**Presented By:** Jim Rearden, Public Works Director  
**Action Requested:** Approve Purchases

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (approve/deny) the purchases of water meter equipment for the 2017 Fiscal Year from Dana Kepner Co. of Billings in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00.”

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

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**Staff Recommendation:** Approve purchases

**Background:**

Significant Impacts

There are approximately 22,000 water meters within the City Water Distribution System. We have replaced the majority of our smaller meters that were not compatible with our radio read system. We are now working on replacing our larger meters (2” to 8”) and installing MXUs (radio read equipment) on the remaining meters. The radio read system makes reading meters safer and more efficient. Currently, there are approximately 6,000 radio reads installed in the city.

Purpose

To approve the purchases of water meter equipment for FY 2017.

Project Work Scope

In Fiscal Year 2016, staff purchased \$226,000 worth of radio read equipment, new meters, meter parts and installation equipment from Dana Kepner Co. In Fiscal Year

2017, staff proposes to purchase radio read equipment, new meters, meter parts and installation equipment from Dana Kepner Co. totaling approximately \$250,000. Our plan for the upcoming 3 to 5 years is to replace the approximately one hundred 2” and larger meters in our system that we are unable to read remotely. To read each meter, the employee must enter every property and read the numbers off the meter. This is very time consuming for us and inconvenient for the property owners. We also have approximately 15,000 MXUs to install, which will take 15 to 20 years to accomplish.

Another issue that we will be facing in the future is the EPA has changed the definition of “Lead Free” from 8.0% to .25%, of lead in brass. The majority of our meters are brass, which means when we have problems (stuck, broken, etc.) with the existing meters, we cannot rebuild them. We will have to install a new .25% “Lead Free” meter or an “I-Perl” meter (composite/plastic material).

#### Evaluation and Selection Process

Dana Kepner Co. of Billings is the sole source distributor for compatible parts and equipment for the City’s metering system. Due to compatibility issues with different equipment, supplies, and suppliers, staff proposes to continue to purchase equipment from Dana Kepner.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

Water meter equipment and supply purchases are budgeted on a yearly basis by the Public Works Water Distribution Division.

#### **Alternatives:**

The City Commission could vote to deny purchases.