




## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Wes Byne, P.E.  
Director

**TO:** Geri Sams  
Director, Procurement Department

**THRU:** Wes Byne, P.E.   
Director, Utilities Department

**FROM:** Steve Little, Asst Dir – Fin & Admin, Utilities

**CC:**

**DATE:** April 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** JUSTIFICATION FOR SOLE SOURCE

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Augusta Utilities is in the process of considering various options and types of equipment to enable us to meet our goal of beginning the process of moving all of our meters to AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) which will eventually enable all of our meters to be read by a system of remote meter data retrieval that will no longer require staff to physically drive to the site of the meter to access the reading data. This can be achieved by transmitting data through cellular signals, or by installing a system of fixed data collectors throughout our area located on existing structures.

Our current remote read vendor, Itron, has a solution that uses cellular technology, so no added infrastructure is required, only the devices themselves, the data collection software, the vendor's IT related services plus cellular service charges. In order to effectively test this technology, we have purchased 100 of these units, but need an additional 400 of these units to have a large enough sample size to monitor their performance for approximately the next six months and make an informed decision. If we decide not to implement this system, these units can still be used in the traditional mode and the software is just an upgrade of our meter reading software to the required version and will provide us with the best software option available as we continue to read the current Itron technology as well over the next several years while we transition to whichever technology and vendor we ultimately decide is best.

Itron is the only vendor who can supply us these particular devices as they are brand new and are not available through any distributors. We are specifically wanting to test their product since we already will have their software in place, and Itron is going to be the lowest price AMI option due to the existing relationship and existing infrastructure and special discounts being offered.