

July 07, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Baxter
13190 Memorywood Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

Brainerd/Baxter
7804 Industrial Park Road
Baxter MN 56425

218.829.5117
Baxter@Widseth.com
Widseth.com

RE: **2025 Design Road & TH 371 Stormwater Improvements Project**
SAP: 230-080-002 & 1810-120
WSN Project No. 2022-10125

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Pursuant to authority of the City Council and after proper legal advertisement, bids for the above-referenced project were obtained at 10:00 A.M., on June 20, 2025, at the Baxter City Hall, Baxter, Minnesota.

The following responsive bids were received:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| J.R. Ferche, Inc. | \$2,537,715.40 |
| Pratt's Affordable Excavating, Inc. | \$2,747,788.00 |
| Engineer's Estimate | \$3,379,173.14 |

Details of all responsive bidders are shown on the enclosed Bid Tabulation. The responsive bids were conforming to the plans, specifications and advertisement. One mathematical error was found in Pratt's Affordable Excavating, Inc. bid, however, this error did not result in a change of low bidder and was confirmed to be responsive by the City Attorney.

The following non-responsive Bids were also received but not read at bid opening:

RL Larson Excavating, Inc.
Landwehr Construction, Inc.

These two bids were reviewed by the City Attorney and are labeled as "non-responsive," and include the following reasons therefore:

- RL Larson Excavating, Inc.'s bid was deemed nonresponsive for failure to list the Total Bid price in Article 3.03.
- Landwehr Construction, Inc.'s bid was deemed nonresponsive for failure to list the First and Second Tier Subcontractors in the Responsible Contractor Form.

The Office of Civil Rights has provided the Contract Clearance Letter approving J.R. Ferche's documents and we recommend that the contract be awarded to J.R. Ferche, Inc., of Rice, Minnesota, the lowest responsible bidder, on the basis of the unit prices on its bid proposal.

We have retained all Bid Bonds and the original bid form of the lowest bidder. We will use the original Bid Form of J.R. Ferche, Inc. to prepare three Contract Documents (one for the City, one for J.R. Ferche, Inc., and one for us). We will return all Bid Bonds to the bidders, with the exception of the lowest and second lowest bidders. Once a fully executed Contract between the City and J.R. Ferche, Inc. has been obtained, the second lowest bidder's Bid Bond will be returned to them.

Sincerely,

Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.



Alex Bitter, P.E.

Enclosure

cc: Trevor Walters, City of Baxter