

# Memorandum



Date: July 8, 2025

To: Buchanan City Commission

From: Tony McGhee

**Subject: Award of Potholing Contract**

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## Background

In Michigan, the updated Lead and Copper Rule (LCR), enacted in 2018 under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act, requires all public water systems to develop and submit a complete inventory of service line materials—both public and private. The rule mandates that all lead service lines (including privately owned portions) be fully removed by 2041 at the utility's expense. Partial replacements are prohibited, and utilities must publicly report sampling results and replacement progress to ensure transparency and ongoing public engagement.

Under Section 1001 of Public Act 166 of 2022, the Michigan Legislature appropriated \$48 million for a grant program designed to support communities with the technical, managerial, and financial aspects of lead service line replacement. The primary goal of this grant program is to fund physical verification of service line materials for the submission of a Complete Distribution System Materials Inventory. In 2024, the City of Buchanan was awarded \$558,500 through this program.

A portion of this funding has been used to cover City staff costs for inspecting in-home service line materials. However, to verify the material at the main and curb stop, as required by the LCR, potholing is necessary. To perform this work, the City partnered with Prein & Newhof to develop a bid package and secure a qualified contractor for potholing and material identification.

The City received four bids ranging from \$592,496 to \$709,918. The lowest responsive bid came from Plummer's Environmental of Byron Center, Michigan, a company with a strong track record of successfully completing similar projects and a solid reputation in the industry.

The submitted bid exceeds the \$425,000 in grant funds allocated for this portion of the work. However, as is common with projects of this nature, the work was bid on a unit-cost basis, allowing flexibility to adjust the project scope in line with available funding.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends awarding the contract to Plummer's Environmental in the full bid amount of \$592,496. Simultaneously, staff recommends executing a change order to adjust the project scope and total contract value—based on unit pricing—not to exceed \$425,000.