



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Purchase and installation of heaters/chillers from Symbiont Services Corporation – **Parks and Recreation**

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager is recommending the replacement, purchase, and installation of four (4) geothermal heaters and chiller units at the Pool and Tennis Center.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

Currently, the pool at the Pool and Tennis Center has four (4) heater/chiller units. The units are over fifteen years old. Two of the four units have reached their repairable lifespan and are no longer in operation. The other two units have intermittently needed repairs and are reaching their repairable lifespan. It is the recommendation to replace all four (4) units at the same time.

ANALYSIS:

The current units at the pool are geothermal heaters and chiller units. The new geothermal units will be purchased and installed by Symbiont Service Corporation. Due to the technological enhancements of the units and amp requirements, the electrical capacity will need to be increased. The electrical work will be completed by the same company and is included in the total cost. The warranty information is as follows: one (1) year Symbiont Service Corp. on all parts and labor of the installation. Five (5) years of manufacturing labor for the units. Seven (7) year manufacturer warranty on all parts of the Symbiont units. Lifetime on titanium tube of the condenser heat exchangers in the new units. With proper and preventative maintenance, the life span of the units is expected to be 15 years or greater.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The pool at the Pool and Tennis Center helps create a Strong Sense of Place, which is identified within the third priority. Aquatic programming and water safety help foster community pride and increase social interactions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Parks and Recreation Department budgeted for the replacement and installation of the geothermal heater/chiller units during the 2024 fiscal year budget process. The project was budgeted through the general fund capital improvement line item. The purchase and installation

of the Symbiont units has been approved as a single source purchase. Symbiont is the creators of the geothermal heaters and are manufactured through AquaCal. Any other vendors in the market have to purchase the units from Symbiont or AquaCal. Upon approval of the purchase, the City will issue a Purchase Order to Symbiont Service Corporation. The Purchase Order has the terms and conditions. These are the terms and conditions that will apply to this project and the City will not be signing the terms and conditions previously provided by the vendor. The document is provided for the quote purpose only.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS:

The purchase and installation of this project has been approved as a single source purchase. The section of the code which allows for this approval is procurement code Section § 2-253. The definition is defined in the code as: refers to a supply source for goods or services which purchases are directed because of issues related to standardization, warranty or other factors, even though other competitive sources may be available. In section § 2-258 (b)(1) further elaborates on single source purchases as:

A contract may be awarded for a supply, service, or construction item without competition when the purchasing agent or a designee determines in writing that there is only one economically feasible source for the required supply, service, or construction item, or when requirements for standardization, warranty, geographic and territorial restrictions, or other factors create a situation where competition is either not feasible or practicable.

Based on these guidelines, the purchase of the geothermal thermal heater and chiller units from Symbiont Services Corporation is a single-source purchase. On December 21, 2023, the City posted a Notice of Intent for Sole/Single Source on Demand Star. The Notice for Single/Sole Source closed on January 2, 2024. This notification is posted to confirm, through the procurement process, that no other contractors/vendors can provide the products specified. The City of Plantation exercised the same process recently in September 2023. They, too, received no responses and issued the award to Symbiont Service Corporation.

The current units at the facility are Geothermal Units. Geothermal provides the ability to adequately maintain the water temperature of the pool. This not only applies to heating, but also to cooling. Elevated pool temperatures can lead to infections harvesting in the pool and unsanitary swimming conditions.

The geothermal units were created by Symbiont Services and AquaCal is the sole manufacture for Symbiont Services Corporation. If other pool companies were to purchase the units from AquaCal, they would be purchasing the same units the City is acquiring, potentially with an upcharge.

Symbiont Services Corporation is the only company in the state that can repair the units. If in the event the units were purchased from another company, and Symbiont Service does not install the units, they would not be able to complete the repairs. If another company was called in for repairs, all warranties would be voided.

The units at the facility are geothermal and have surpassed their lifespan of over 15 years. Given that our facility already operates on a geothermal system, standardizing the same geothermal technology for the replacement units will ensure seamless integration with our current infrastructure. Furthermore, familiarity with the existing system will expedite staff training and reduce potential downtime during the transition. It is the recommendation to maintain the same system in place to be able to adequately regulate the pool water temperature. The single source purchase aligns with our commitment to providing a high-quality recreational experience for our community while ensuring the longevity and efficiency of our recreational facilities.

<u>General Ledger Acct. Number</u>	<u>Budgeted Amount</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>	<u>Remaining Amount</u>
General Fund Capital Improvement Fund 300-710-563160-519-24014	\$100,000	\$75,198.00	\$24,802.00

ALTERNATIVES:

If the purchase and installation of the geothermal units are not approved, the pool will not be able to maintain an adequate pool temperature in the range of 78 degrees to 85 degrees. Equally so, if we cannot have the chillers during the warmer seasons, the pool can be in jeopardy of exceeding the recommended pool temperature and potentially be at risk for bacteria and/or other compliance regulations.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Request for Single Source Procurement
2. Single Source Letter
3. Symbiont Service Corp Quote
4. Single Source Provider Letters
5. City of Cooper City Purchase Order Terms and Conditions
6. City of Cooper City Notice of Intent
7. City of Cooper City Award Letter
8. City of Plantation Notice of Intent
9. City of Plantation Award Letter

Workflow History



User	Task	Action	Date/Time
Allen, Tedra	NEW ITEM: Not Yet Routed	Route to Purchasing	01/05/24 11:10 AM
Dodgen, Brandon	Assigned to Purchasing	COMPLETE: Forward to ...	01/05/24 11:20 AM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to City Clerk	Route to Attorney	01/05/24 11:28 AM
Horowitz, Jacob	Assigned to Attorney	COMPLETE: Forward to ...	01/05/24 11:30 AM
Eggleston, Ryan	Assigned to City Manager	COMPLETE: Forward to ...	01/05/24 11:35 AM
Allen, Tedra	Assigned to City Clerk	APPROVE ITEM: End Wo...	01/05/24 12:24 PM
Allen, Tedra	END WORKFLOW - APPROVED		01/05/24 12:34 PM