

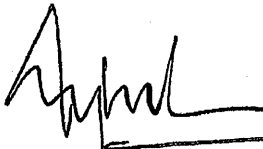


## COOPER CITY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

---

DATE: July 19, 2023

TO: Ryan Eggleston, City Manager

FROM: Raj Verma, Utilities Director/City Engineer 

SUBJECT: Emergency Purchase Authorization – Dewatering of Sludge and Disposal System

---

### **Recommendation:**

Pursuant to the City Code Sec. 2-258 (c), which authorizes the City Manager to make emergency purchases exceeding his approval threshold (\$20,000), it is recommended that an emergency purchase in the amount of \$150,000 for dewatering services of sludge disposal system be approved. This amount should provide the requisite services for approximately three (3) months while the staff explores repairs of two (2) centrifuges, both of which are out of service. Funds in the amount of \$256,761 are available in the Utility Contingency Account, 450-950-599000-536, to cover the cost of this request, leaving a balance of \$106,761.

Please note that additional expenses may become necessary depending upon the type of repairs, including and up to \$1.5 million for full replacement of both centrifuges. In the event the centrifuges could not be repaired and full replacement becomes necessary, supplemental expenses up to \$600,000 for continued dewatering would be required while the new centrifuges are assembled and installed.

The centrifuge replacement project for \$1.5 million was requested in the FY 2024 budget. Unfortunately, the equipment failed before the budget request could be approved.

### **Background:**

The centrifuges are essential components in the dewatering train before the solids (sludge) are separated and hauled away to approved landfills. The City's wastewater plant has two (2) centrifuges that are reportedly at least 20 years old. One of them has been out of service for over one (1) year due to unavailability (age) of replacement parts. The second one was forced to shut down on July 16, 2023 due to high vibrations, which could have caused serious damage and injuries.

Replacement of centrifuges and its funding was not identified in the 10-year capital plan that was shared with me when I came on board. However, the operations staff advised me in February 2023 of the urgent need for their replacement. Preliminary estimate provided by the City's CCNA consultant was at least \$2.5 million with a two-year fabrication / installation time using traditional design-bid-build procurement process. It was my hope to add the replacement included in the revised list of ARPA projects and get the Commission approval as a "turnkey" procurement allowed under ARPA guidelines with less cost (\$1.5 million) and less time (one year).

While the staff explores the possibility of repairs, the effluent must be dewatered and sludge separated regularly. After evaluating various options available on an urgent basis, the staff recommends utilizing the disposal services offered by SYNAGRO South, LLC. The City already has a contract with this vendor for sludge disposal but not for dewatering. SYNAGRO, has agreed to give the City a price of \$0.0925 per gallon as approved in their Palm Beach County Contract, titled, "Sewage Cake Sludge, Dewatering, Hauling and Disposal, Term Contract 21012B." Staff is estimating a dewatering volume of 500,000 gallons per month.