



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Submitted By: Emily Nelson, Assistant Director of Parks & Community Services

Council Meeting Date: 7/7/2026

Agenda Item Wording: **Discussion and possible action to approve an Agreement between the City of Dripping Springs and Ice Rink Events to provide the equipment, installation and removal of a temporary, holiday-season ice skating rink at Dripping Springs Ranch Park to operate from November 27, 2026 - January 5, 2027.**

Sponsor: Council Member Sherrie Parks

Agenda Item Requestor: Emily Nelson

Summary/Background: **Background**

Since 2023, the City of Dripping Springs has partnered with Ice Rink Events to provide the seasonal Western Wonderland Ice Rink at Dripping Springs Ranch Park. The attraction has become a signature holiday destination for residents and visitors, providing seasonal recreation, family entertainment, and economic activity during the winter months.

The proposed Agreement with Ice Rink Events provides for the equipment rental, installation, maintenance support, and removal of a temporary ice skating rink at Dripping Springs Ranch Park for the 2026–2027 holiday season. The proposed rink size is approximately 60 feet by 120 feet. Installation is scheduled for November 23–27, 2026, with public operations beginning November 27, 2026, and continuing through January 5, 2027. Removal of the rink is scheduled for January 6–12, 2027.

Under the agreement, Ice Rink Events will provide the rink system, refrigeration equipment, dasher boards, ice maintenance equipment, rental skates, skate aids, installation and removal labor, project management, and ongoing professional support throughout the operating season.

Financial Impact

The total cost for the ice rink equipment rental and professional services is \$179,955. Ice Rink Events has offered a discounted contract price of **\$171,385**, representing a savings of \$8,570. Payment terms include a 50% non-refundable retainer due upon contract execution, 25% due September 1, 2026, and the remaining 25% due December 20, 2026.

Historical Performance and Cost Recovery

Western Wonderland has demonstrated significant financial improvement since its inaugural season. While revenues have remained relatively stable, operating expenses have decreased substantially through operational efficiencies and expense management.

The proposed 2026-2027 agreement continues an event that has shown significant financial improvement over the past three seasons. Cost recovery increased from 51.4% in 2023 to 71.5% in 2025, while operating expenses decreased by 30.7%. The City's subsidy requirement declined from \$144,535.99 to \$58,651.07, demonstrating substantial progress toward long-term financial sustainability.

- **2023:** Revenue \$153,058.48 | Expenses \$297,594.47 | Cost Recovery 51.4%
- **2024:** Revenue \$157,201.74 | Expenses \$256,213.82 | Cost Recovery 61.4%
- **2025:** Revenue \$147,442.36 | Expenses \$206,093.43 | Cost Recovery 71.5%

Optional Ice Bumper Car Attraction

The agreement also includes an optional enhancement consisting of ten (10) ice bumper cars. The bumper car package is available at a cost of **\$1,400 per operating day**, plus an estimated **\$3,800 freight charge**. The City may elect to add this attraction at a later date based on budget availability, sponsorship support, or operational considerations. Ice bumper cars provide an additional family-friendly activity that can increase attendance and generate supplemental revenue opportunities.

Attachments: Updated Ice Rink Events Service Proposal 2026-2027

Next Steps/Schedule: If approved, execute agreement.

