



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

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SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-020 Approving an Exception to the Use of a Competitive Process for an Enterprise License Agreement with ESRI for GIS Software.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A request for an exception to the use of a competitive bid process for the purchase of a three-year Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with an option to renew for two additional years from ESRI is being brought forward for consideration. The alternative is contrary to the City's best interests for the following reasons:

- ESRI's suite of Geographic Information System (GIS) software solution is used throughout the City by many departments and partner agencies to deliver map services to the public and to help City Council and Staff to make informed decisions.
- The ESRI solution is integrated and highly integral to various other software solutions used by the City. Moving away from the ESRI solution would be a multi-year project with high cost, the potential loss of functionality, and great impact to the City and the public.
- ESRI's software is proprietary and is only available for purchase directly from ESRI; they do not partner with third party resellers.
- ESRI holds the market share in GIS software making it easy to hire and maintain highly qualified staff.
- The ELA is a cost-effective approach which allows for an unlimited number of staff to make use of this software. It also provides access to future updates and upgrades which allows for growth and sustainability of the GIS environment.

Exception to the Competitive Bid or Proposal Rationale:

Section 8-161(d)(1)b. Although there exists more than one (1) responsible source a competitive process cannot reasonably be used or, if used, will result in a substantially higher cost to the City, will otherwise injure the City's financial interest, or will substantially impede the City's administrative functions or the delivery of services to the public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City started using the ESRI software solution in 1994. It was selected as the City's GIS software solution through a competitive bid process. For more than twenty-five years the ESRI data and analysis solution has been used in the City to support mapping and informed decision making by staff and City Council.

The GIS solution is also used to produce high quality printed maps for the public. These maps are used to navigate and find the locations of specific parks, trails, etc. A few examples of the mapping products that have been created for this purpose include:

- Natural Areas Map
- Individual Natural Area Brochures
- The Trails Map

Additionally, the ESRI software is used to provide online mapping solutions to assist the public and staff find locations, information, and help make decisions. These maps include but are not limited to:

- Real time Rain/Stream flow map
- Current Development Proposals
- FCMaps
- Internal Capital Projects

The ESRI software solution provides a way to store and edit data in databases to allow for multiple users to access and edit data in different versions of the database with tools for conflict resolution. There is also a mobile solution that works on GPS devices, offering easier ways to capture data in the field and integrate into these databases.

As an industry leader in GIS software, several other vendors integrate ESRI data and software into their products. Certain existing solutions that are utilized by the City require this integration to operate correctly such as but not limited to:

- The Streets department's work order and asset management system (CityWorks)
- Utilities Services' asset management system (Maximo)
- Code Compliance's mobile violation solution (Accela Mobile Office)
- Building Inspection permitting system (Accela Automation)
- Development Review's workflow software (Accela Automation)
- Access Fort Collins
- 911 system data is generated with the software (Tiburon/Maverick)

Without the ELA renewal, staff would need to go move forward with a Request for Proposal for new software or switch to a yearly maintenance model which would be much more expensive and would not allow for unlimited staff licensing. The number of integrations with other solutions also makes the change to a new software a highly complex and costly project which would have major impacts to the daily operations of the City and to the quality of the products provided to the public.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The City has been utilizing ESRI software for more than twenty-five years and has a highly skilled team of analysts which support the current software. ESRI software holds the largest market share for GIS software making it much easier to hire and maintain a qualified workforce. Moving to a new solution would require retooling of the team's skillsets and would make hiring and training of quality candidates more difficult in the future.

The current licensing model allows for unlimited cloud access to City staff. Moving away from the Enterprise Licensing Agreement would increase the annual cost of licensing by approximately 22% or require the City to reduce access to the ESRI solution.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

NA

PUBLIC OUTREACH

NA

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. ESRI Quote for Renewal