



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** January 5, 2021
FROM: Mike Null, Asst. City Manager
SUBJECT: City Council approval of a purchase order to Area Communications in the amount of \$523,630 to install underground fiber from Chapman Substation to the core City to support Electric Department SCADA operations and provide improvements to the current City fiber infrastructure. *Mike Null*

BACKGROUND

As part of the \$10.7 million loan for capital electric system improvements, money was allotted for upgrades to the Chapman Substation, installation of a third feed into town from Chapman and installation of SCADA controls in the system. In order to facilitate communication from the Chapman substation to the three substations in town and the City network, staff proposes to install:

- Underground fiber from Chapman substation to the Police Department.
- Upgrades to the existing fiber network connecting all City facilities.
- Fiber feeds into the South, North and Harbor Road substations.

Area Communications has been handling the City's fiber and other related IT needs for the last two years. This fiber will be part of the City's communications network and as such is excepted from formal purchasing procedures per Chapter 5 of the City's Purchasing Policies and Procedures Manual 2019. Area Communications has submitted a proposal to complete this work for \$523,630. For comparison purposes, our standing bid boring contractor charges \$13.65 per foot to bore 2.5" conduit and the City must provide the conduit. Area's bid includes a unit price of \$12.10 per foot including the conduit. The boring work constitutes over 60% of the overall cost. With these items in mind, staff feels that Area's proposal is reasonable and is requesting approval by City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are available in the approved FY 21 Electric Dept CIP budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a purchase order to Area Communications in the amount of \$523,630 to install underground fiber from Chapman Substation to the core City to support Electric Department SCADA operations and provide improvements to the current City fiber infrastructure.