



STAFF REPORT

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

TO: City Council Regular Session **MEETING DATE:** April 1, 2025

FROM: Scott Schultz, Asst. Water Utilities Director

SUBJECT: City Council approval of the Sawcross (Tender Contractor) Pay Request #11, in the amount of \$228,920.55, and authorization for the mayor to execute Disbursement Request # 25 (to follow), for construction of the Harbor Road Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (HRAWWTF), as part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), State Revolving Fund (SRF), Harbor Road Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Expansion, Phase 2, SRF Agreement No. WW1000420.

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2016, Council provided direction for staff to pursue "Scenario #3" (See excerpt from the June 7th staff report) sewer system expansion/improvements.

Excerpt from the June 7, 2016 Staff Report

"At the October 20, 2015 meeting, Council authorized submittal of a loan application under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) program for the "Phase I" planning portion of the project which would be completed by Mittauer & Associates. In addition, the Council approved a task order to Mittauer & Associates to prepare the planning documents necessary to secure capital financing under the SRF Program to complete a Facilities Plan, Environmental Plan, Capital Financing Plan, and associated Special Studies."

The staff report reviewed additional aspects of the analysis to date, and summarized three main development scenarios the City was considering. They are outlined as follows:

- Scenario 1: AWWTP only (no reclaimed water improvements)
- Scenario 2: AWWTP and Reclaimed Water System Improvements
- Scenario 3: AWWTP, Reclaimed Water System, and Existing Collection System Improvements

As a result of the discussions and preliminary analysis, the City selected Scenario 3, which had the following implications:

"Scenario 3 – AWWTP, reclaimed water system improvements and collection system improvements (repair and replacement of clay lines city-wide)

Project Cost	\$35,181,000
Loan Amount	\$28,681,000
Retained Earnings	\$1,000,000
Impact Fee Revenue	\$1,200,000
Grants	\$4,300,000
Annual Loan Payment	\$1,316,100"

The costs are planning-level values and the annual loan payment will be based on final bid prices, interest

rates at the time of construction loan acquisition, and accumulated grants/retained earnings/impact-fee revenue. Each scenario was reviewed with the following common variables: All scenarios assumed a 2% increase in the number of wastewater customers each year through FY'20 and a 0.5% increase each year from FY'21 through FY'25. All scenarios assumed \$6,500,000 available in grant funding, retained earnings, and impact fee revenue dedicated to the project up front in order to reduce the total loan repayment amount. Retained earnings is estimated at \$1,000,000. Impact fee revenue is estimated at \$1,200,000. Grant funding from all sources is estimated at \$4,300,000. Although, as indicated earlier in this writing, we may qualify for 45% grant funds from SRF, the total dollar amount available each year for grant funding is limited. Staff feels that \$4,300,000 is a reasonably conservative and prudent estimate as to the amount of grant dollars we may receive. However, depending on the number of projects funded by the SRF program in the next two years and the amount of grant funding available, that number can certainly increase. All scenarios assume a 2.2%, 30-year loan repayment which is in line with the Capital Financing Plan formulas. However, based on recent interest rate history in the SRF program and use of interest rate buy-downs such as requiring Davis-Bacon wage requirements and Buy-American provisions of the contractor, we may be able to realize lower interest rates when our loan is actually processed. The 30-year loan timeline contemplates repayments from FY'21 through FY'50. Reynolds Park re-development is not factored in to any of the scenarios.

On August 10, 2016, SRF staff approved SRF Project # 100400 granting the City of Green Cove Springs a \$2,261,200.00 loan with a principal forgiveness amount of \$1,491,035.00 to address the project's design, permitting, and SSES needs. These tasks were completed and the project has been completed / closed.

On October 18, 2016, the City Council adopted after second and final reading, Ordinance O-13-2016, authorizing the expenditures of up to \$34,158,100.00 for capital improvements to the City's wastewater treatment, wastewater collection and reclaimed water systems

On August 8, 2018, FDER SRF staff approved SRF Project # 100400 granting the City of Green Cove Springs a \$6,120,600.00 loan with a principal forgiveness amount of \$4,063,425.00 for Phase I Construction which includes reclaimed water, electrical and improvements to Lift Stations #2 and #4.

On October 2, 2018 Council approved Resolution No. R-29-2018, a Resolution authorizing staff to submit and mayor to execute a loan application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for Phase I Construction of the Consolidated Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) and associated Lift Station Improvements.

On December 4, 2018, council approved and authorized the execution of the contract for SRF Project # 100400 granting the City of Green Cove Springs a \$6,120,600.00 loan with a principal forgiveness amount of \$4,063,425.00 for Phase I Construction which includes reclaimed water, electrical and improvements to Lift Stations #2 and #4.

On March 19, 2019, Council approved bid tabulations and awarded Sawcross the plant portion, and R2T the lift station portion, of the Phase I construction.

Phase I construction being completed in May of 2020, Council authorized staff to submit a Request for Inclusion (RFI) to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) for Construction Phase II, which includes construction of a 1.25 million gallon per day (MGD) - annual average daily flow (AADF), advanced wastewater treatment facility (AWWTF), in the amount of \$18,165,500.00.

On August 12, 2020, the FDEP SRF program awarded the City a \$12,000,000.00, 20 year loan, with \$4,452,835.00 in principal forgiveness (grant). Due to a limitation of available funds, the SRF program withheld \$6,186,500.00 in requested funds, which will be reviewed for award and addition to the current loan the next award period.

On 10/6/2020 City Council approved Resolution No. R-27-2020, a Resolution authorizing staff to submit and Mayor to execute the loan application for SRF Loan # 100401 to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for Phase II Construction of the Consolidated

Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) in the amount of \$12,000,000.00 with a principal forgiveness (grant) amount of \$4,452,835.00 providing for an actual repayment amount of \$7,547,165.00.

On 1/19/2021 the City Council approved of, and authorized the Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), Construction Loan Agreement WW100420, Grant Agreement SG 100421 for Phase II Construction of the Consolidated Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWWTP) in the amount of \$12,000,000.00 with a principal forgiveness (grant) amount of \$4,452,835.00 providing for an actual repayment amount of \$7,547,165.00. The original loan request was for \$18,106,500.00. Due to limited funds, the SRF program limited the award to \$12,000,000.00, with the plan to award the city an additional \$6,106,500.00 in July 2021.

On February 2, 2021, eight Sealed Bids were opened for the construction of the above referenced project. Williams Industrial was determined to be the lowest qualified bidder. The estimated budget / original SRF loan request was for \$18,106,500.00. This project came in under projected budget, including the Additive Alternates.

On February 16, 2021 Council approved the Engineers Recommendation of Award to Williams Industrial Services, LLC.

On March 16, 2021, Council approved and executed the contract between the city and Williams Industrial.

On July 19, 2023, Williams Industrial abandoned the site and filed bankruptcy. Since that time staff have been working with the Surety (performance bond insurance company) to replace Williams Industrial with a substitute contractor to finish construction.

The Surety, in cooperation with city staff, has selected Sawcross Inc. as the completion contractor (referred to in legal documents as the Tender Contractor). The City and Sawcross now have the standard Owner / Contractor relationship and Sawcross is completing the construction of the facility.

The following items have been received.

- Fully Executed Tender & Release Agreement
- Performance and Payment Bond from Sawcross to the City
- Executed Debarment Form from Sawcross to the City.

Due to the bankruptcy of Williams Industrial, and the subsequent hiring of Sawcross as the Tender Contractor, the cost to complete the plant rose from \$2,640,255.19 to \$4,713,219.00. The surety paid the city \$2,072,963.81 over and above the original contract price.

The remaining \$92,245.51 of grant funds provided by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) were expended with Tender Contractors Pay Request #6.

Soon to follow will be Disbursement Request #25 for the mayors execution.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$228,920.55 from the Wastewater CIP Budget

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Sawcross (Tender Contractor) Pay Request #11, in the amount of \$228,920.55 and authorize the mayor to execute Disbursement Request # 25