

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: October 27, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Joshua Burman, Director of Public Works

Topic: Purchase Approval – Safety Shoring Equipment

PURPOSE

Staff requests that the Village Board waive competitive bidding to purchase a Pro-Tec Aluminum Trench Shield shoring system from Lee Jensen Sales Co, Inc. of Mokena IL in the amount of \$30,933.94. Lee Jensen is the provider for the Pro-Tec and Pro-Span trenching and shoring system and they are the local distributor, which enables them to provide better customer service to the Village. This equipment will support safe and efficient trenching, excavation, and underground utility maintenance operations performed by the Village's Public Works Department while ensuring compliance with applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards.

PROCESS

Trenching and Shoring

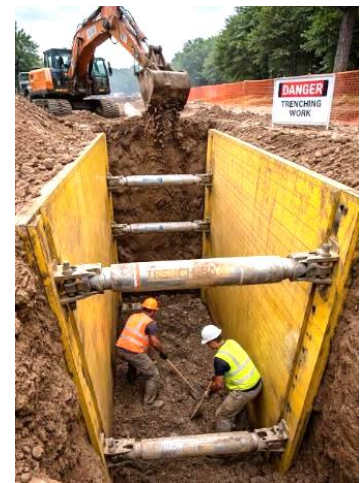
Trenching and shoring describes the measures used to brace and support below-ground excavation walls to prevent the soil from collapsing on workers. The Public Works Department commonly performs excavation and underground utility work associated with the maintenance, repair, and replacement of sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, and other municipal infrastructure. These operations require employees to work below in and around excavations where trench wall instability and cave-ins present major safety hazards.

Currently Used Trenching and Shoring System

Public Works currently utilizes an older, heavier gauge steel/aluminum system that is markedly heavier than the newer light-weight aluminum proposed system. The older, heavier “boxes” take time to be deployed, requiring additional staff to mechanically lift, block and transport the system to job sites.

Modern Aluminum Systems

The aluminum trenching and shoring systems are lightweight, high-strength protective equipment that are stackable which means they are able to allow for deeper ground wall



VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



protection. The new light weight systems can be deployed faster from where they are stored to a dig site with fewer staff and equipment.

SELECTING A SYSTEM

Line staff members from the Public Works Safety Committee staffed by employees from each of the divisions (streets, utility, landscape & maintenance, etc.), collectively and collaboratively identified the need to upgrade the Village's existing shoring equipment as a critical priority. The safety committee focused on employee safety during excavation and underground utility work. Over the past several years, surrounding communities have experienced serious injuries and even fatalities associated with trench collapses. As the primary users of trenching and shoring systems, the utility staff took the lead on evaluating various systems. Staff was careful to evaluate and select a trenching and shoring system that could be sustainable and lasting.

Acquiring the best trench protection equipment provides the Village with the ability to protect employees during these digging and excavation activities while also improving jobsite compliance and safety requirements.



The purchase of a Pro-Tec Aluminum Trench Shield shoring system would provide the Village with a durable, reusable, and practical means of trench protection for qualifying excavation work. The addition of compatible Finform boards, Pro-Tec telescoping adjustable spreaders, and the associated controller and rubber air hose would provide the necessary components to configure and operate the system for approved applications and field conditions. This investment would enhance employee safety, improve operational efficiency, and support the reliable maintenance and repair of the Village's underground infrastructure.



VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



OUTCOME

In summary, purchasing the proposed Pro-Tec Aluminum Trench Shield shoring system would provide several benefits:

- **Employee Safety and OSHA Compliance:** Helps protect employees from trench cave-ins and supports compliance with applicable OSHA excavation safety requirements.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Provides Public Works with readily available equipment to perform underground utility repairs and maintenance safely and efficiently.
- **Versatility and Readiness:** Includes compatible Finform boards, adjustable spreaders, controller, rubber air hose, and necessary accessories to accommodate approved trench configurations.
- **Long-Term Value:** Provides reusable equipment that may reduce rental costs and improve the Village's ability to respond promptly to emergency utility repairs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** Water & Sewer Capital
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$75,000.00
- **Cost:** \$30,933.94

LEGAL REVIEW

Not Required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Waive competitive bidding to allow the purchase of a new trenching and shoring system known as the Pro-Tec Aluminum Trench Shield shoring system with supportive equipment through Lee Jensen Sales Co., Inc. of Mokena, IL as the sole source provider in the amount not to exceed \$30,933.94.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Lee Jensen Shoring Sales Proposal