



CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager

FROM: Susi Lampe, CMC, IaCMC, IaCFO – Assistant City Manager/City Clerk/Treasurer

DATE OF MEETING: September 22, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Water/Wastewater Farm Lease

BACKGROUND:

The current farm lease is in effect from March 1, 2023, to February 28, 2026. Following discussions with City Manager Schmitz and Utilities Director Foley, I sent a letter to the current tenant in September, notifying him that we would not extend the current contract and would go out for bids for the next lease term. Bids were to be submitted to City Hall by noon on September 15, 2025. I received two bids, and those are included in the agenda packet. The current farm lease rent is \$270.00 per acre, resulting in an annual rent of \$6,210.

DISCUSSION:

Staff believes awarding to Rick J. Alber, at the submitted price of \$290 per acre, is appropriate.

RESULTS:

The City has established priorities during strategic planning sessions. This item supports the Vision from that session of efficient and effective planning and prioritizing of all available resources. This item helps achieve that vision by productively using ground that would otherwise be vacant and unproductive.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION:

The rent is budgeted in the Utilities department.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends a motion to approve the 2026-2029 Water/Wastewater Farm Lease with a bid of \$290 per acre submitted by Rick J. Alber, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the lease.