



**Meeting Date:** September 26, 2024      **Agenda Type:** Consent Items for Action

**From:** Justin Green      **Reviewed by:** Gretchen Reuwer  
Electric Operations Manager      Director of Electric Services and Compliance

**Submitted by:** Gretchen Reuwer      **Approved by:** Ryan Kelso  
Director of Electric Services and Compliance      Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize the CEO or His Designee to Negotiate and Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Townsend Tree Service Company, LLC for Tree Trimming Services

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## **BACKGROUND**

This Professional Services Agreement (the “Agreement”) with Townsend Tree Service Company, LLC provides labor, material, and equipment necessary to perform vegetation management around electric infrastructure (the “Services”) for New Braunfels Utilities (“NBU”). Townsend Tree Service Company, LLC shall trim, chemically treat, and/or remove trees and other vegetation as directed at the locations specified by NBU.

NBU has a tree trimming program in place that is designed to maintain our easements, ensure service reliability, and provide safety for our crews and customers. The goal is to balance the aesthetics of a healthy urban forest with regulating entities’ requirements for having standards in place to protect our local electric system and the state’s electric grid. NBU Electric Ops implemented a formal vegetation management program in FY 2020 that was designed to complete tree trimming throughout the entire NBU electric distribution system within five years. This goal was accomplished in four years and the system is now in a maintenance mode. The benefits of this program have been extensive as the NBU distribution system has experienced minimal outages attributed to tree limbs over the past four years and none during Winter Storm Uri. In FY 2024, only 17 of 382 outages were directly attributed to limbs coming in contact with distribution lines. Since FY 2020, over 1,200 miles of distribution lines have been cleared of tree limbs and vegetation with the percentage of system cleared dependent upon the level of forestation of the area and the length of the circuit.

NBU staff requests that the Board of Trustees approve the Agreement with Townsend Tree Service Company LLC for the Services.

This item is being presented to the Board because the total amount of the Agreement exceeds \$500,000.00.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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This is a one-year contract with up to four one-year renewals. Each year has a total not-to-exceed of \$1,000,000.00 with the entire contract not-to-exceed of \$5,000,000.00.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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**Customers and Community**

**Financial Excellence**

**Stewardship**

## **EXHIBITS**

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1. Professional Services Agreement with Townsend Tree Service Company, LLC