



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 01/27/2026

**REQUESTER:** Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

**PRESENTER:** Michele Loudenback, Environmental and Sustainability Manager

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2526-126: BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN AND FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,969, FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEY, DESIGN, ANALYSIS, AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE WATER QUALITY RETROFIT OF THE SEQUOYAH TRAILS BLOCK A COMMON SPACE DETENTION POND, AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. (Ward 6)

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### **BACKGROUND:**

Lake Thunderbird, a critical water source, and recreational asset for the City of Norman, is subject to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations to control nutrient and sediment loading. A previous feasibility assessment identified the detention pond at Sequoyah Trail and Wildwood Lane as a potential site for retrofitting with green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to improve stormwater management, enhance water quality, and reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the Lake Thunderbird watershed.

On October 13, 2020, City Council approved Contract K-2021-39, between the City of Norman and Freese and Nichols, Inc., for completion of the Lake Thunderbird Watershed total maximum daily load (TMDL) Monitoring, Years 6-10, project.

On April 27, 2021, City Council approved Amendment 1 to Contract K-2021-39, between the City of Norman and Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI), for additional work related to ensuring that the City meets DEQ requirements through the completion of the tasks related to the review and update of TMDL and Management Program materials.

On June 11, 2024, City Council approved Amendment 2 to Contract K-2021-39 between the City of Norman and FNI, covering feasibility assessments within the Woodcrest Creek watershed including stream restoration and preliminary evaluation of the subject pond.

On April 15, 2025, City Council accepted the donation of the 0.39 acre pond from the Board of Cleveland County Commissioners.

## **DISCUSSION:**

In 2023, Freese and Nichols completed an update of the TMDL model for Lake Thunderbird under Contract K-2021-039. Results from that update were provided to the City. Updated nutrient and sediment loading calculations were completed for the entire watershed and for individual sub-watersheds. These loadings provided data showing concentrations of nutrient and sediment inputs from each of the sub-watersheds. Using this data to guide nutrient and sediment reduction efforts in the form of constructed BMPs, it has been determined that Woodcrest Creek (WC-1) is one of the highest sources of sediment and phosphorous in the City.

This proposed agreement will authorize FNI to complete the detailed design of the detention pond retrofit, incorporating best practices for GSI aimed at significantly improving water quality through enhanced infiltration, sediment control, and native vegetation establishment. The scope includes detailed design documents, specifications, and collaboration with the University of Oklahoma under the supervision of Dr. Robert Nairn. This partnership will provide practical, hands-on experience for environmental and engineering students, fostering educational growth while contributing valuable insights to the project.

This agreement aligns with ongoing TMDL requirements and the City's efforts in stormwater quality improvement through structural Best Management Practices (BMPs). Staff has negotiated Contract K-2526-126 to a cost of \$99,969.

Funds are available in the amount of \$1,100,568 within Lake Thunderbird TMDL Project, Design (Account 50599968-46201; Project DR0061).

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2526-126, between the City of Norman and Freese and Nichols, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$99,969 for the professional survey, design, analysis, and engineering services in connection with the Sequoyah Trails detention pond project.