



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 3/24/2026

REQUESTER: Peter Wolbach

PRESENTER: Peter Wolbach, Staff Engineer - Utilities

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, AMENDMENT, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AWARDED BID 2526-27, CONTRACT K-2526-25: BY AND BETWEEN THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND VORTEX SERVICES, L.L.C., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,302,033, PERFORMANCE BOND B-2526-47, STATUTORY BOND B-2526-48, AND MAINTENANCE BOND MB-2526-39 FOR THE SEWER MAINTENANCE PROJECT (SMP) FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2018, BUDGET TRANSFERS, AND APPROPRIATION AS OUTLINED IN THE STAFF REPORT. (Ward 2 and 4)

BACKGROUND:

In 2001, the citizens of Norman approved a five-dollar-per-month sewer maintenance fee to provide for the systematic replacement of aged and deteriorating neighborhood sewer lines. The Sewer Maintenance Project for Fiscal Year Ending 2018 (SMP-18) study area is shown on the attached map. After extensive study by Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) staff and the NUA Sewer Line Maintenance Division, sanitary sewer lines within the study area were categorized into segments requiring replacement or rehabilitation due to deteriorated pipe conditions.

The SMP-18 project area is generally bounded by Highway 9 to the south, Berry Road to the east, Homeland Avenue to the west, and several residential streets to the north with Vine Street representing the bounds of the northernmost portion of the project area. In addition to the original project area, staff identified several other areas that needed replacement or rehabilitation as part of the Base Bid. The project will include trenchless installation of approximately 45,000 linear feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer pipe and appurtenances, as well as open-cut installation of approximately 600 linear feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer pipe and appurtenances. Two alternates were also bid to for a small section of line proposed for sliplining and the Woodcrest Interceptor Realignment, which will occur east of Chardonnay Lane.

DISCUSSION:

The advertisement for bids was published in the Norman Transcript on January 15 and January 22, 2026, with bids received and opened on February 26, 2026 at 2:00 PM. A total of 27 plan holders were registered for the project and four bids were received.

As shown in the attached bid tabulation, the bids ranged from \$4,844,463 to \$9,444,420 with the lowest bid submitted by Vortex Services, L.L.C., (Vortex), in the amount of \$4,844,463 for the Base Bid. The spread between the lowest and highest base bids was approximately \$4.6 million, indicating a wide range in contractor pricing for the work. Despite this spread, the bid submitted by Vortex, is consistent with staff expectations for a project of this size and scope and is considered competitive.

Additionally, staff evaluated the bids for Alternates A and B. Alternate A proposed to slipline and existing 24-inch line along Westbrooke Terrace east of Berry Road. Based on the received bids for this work, staff recommends that Alternate A not be awarded and the work be deferred and alternative solutions be investigated. Bids for Alternate B for the Woodcrest Interceptor Realignment were reasonable so this work is proposed to be awarded.

Vortex was the low bid regardless of the combination of Base Bid and Alternates A and B awarded. Staff has reviewed the bid for responsiveness and recommends award of the Base Bid and Add Alternate B in the amount of \$5,302,033 to Vortex as the lowest responsible bidder.

Upon approval by the Norman Utilities Authority, the contractor will be authorized to begin construction activities as soon as possible following execution of the contract documents and approval of required bonds. The contract time for completion of the project is 700 calendar days.

The current available balance in the Sewer Maintenance 2018 Construction Account (32193338-46101; Project WW0316) is \$2,460,675.25. To fully fund the project, staff recommends the following transfers and appropriation to the Sewer Maintenance 2018 Construction Account (32193338-46101; Project WW0316):

- Transfer \$2,100,000 from the Bishop Creek Interceptor Replacement Construction Account (32190048-46101; Project WW0174);
- Transfer \$240,000 from the Brookhaven Creek Interceptor Replacement Construction Account (32190048-46101; Project WW0328);
- Appropriation of \$900,000 in additional funds from Sewer Maintenance Fund 321 (321-29900).

With the transfers and appropriation, the new available balance in the Sewer Maintenance 2018 Construction Account (32193338-46101; Project WW0316) will be \$5,700,675.25 which will leave \$398,642.25 or approximately 7 percent for contingency. The Bishop Creek Interceptor project was recently recommended by the AIM Wastewater Master Plan but construction would be several years in the future. The Brookhaven Interceptor was not recommended so this project will be closed out in the future.

The City of Norman is exempt from the payment of sales or use taxes. Pursuant to Title 68 O.S., Section 1356 (10) and Oklahoma Tax Commission Rules Part 27 Trust Authority 710:65-13-140, vendors supplying equipment and materials directly to the Norman Utilities Authority are also exempt from these taxes. To minimize project costs, the NUA will make payment directly to vendors supplying equipment and materials for incorporation into the project.

RECOMMENDATION 1:

Staff recommends that the NUA accept bids meeting project specifications and award the Base Bid and Alternate B to Vortex Services, L.L.C., for the Sewer Maintenance Project for Fiscal Year Ending 2018 in the amount of \$5,302,033.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

Staff recommends that the NUA approve Contract K-2526-25 for the Base Bid and Alternate B with Vortex Services, L.L.C., in the amount of \$5,302,033 and approve Performance Bond B-2526-47, Statutory Bond B-2526-48, and Maintenance Bond MB-2526-39 for the Sewer Maintenance Project for Fiscal Year Ending 2018.

RECOMMENDATION 3:

Staff recommends that the NUA approve budget transfers in the amount of \$2,340,000 as outlined in the staff report.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

Staff recommends that the NUA approve Sewer Maintenance Fund (321-29000) appropriation in the amount of \$900,000 as outlined in the staff report.

RECOMMENDATION 5:

Staff recommends approval for the NUA to pay vendors for equipment and supplies for the Sewer Maintenance Project for Fiscal Year Ending 2018.