



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 08/11/2026

REQUESTER: Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer

PRESENTER: Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2627-40 BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORMAN/NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE (BNSF) RAILWAY COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,400 FOR THE RAILROAD CROSSING BETWEEN APACHE AND LINN ASSOCIATED WITH THE JAMES GARNER WATER LINE REPLACEMENT FROM DUFFY TO MAIN. (WARD 4)

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department is moving forward with the James Garner Avenue Streetscape project which will improve this corridor including new paving and sidewalks from Andrews Park south to Duffy Street. This project is currently under design by Cowan Group Engineering LLC (Cowan Group).

Water lines located within this corridor are over 50 years old and have experienced failures that disrupt water service and also traffic flows for this important street corridor. Replacement of these water lines prior to the surface improvements would ensure good infrastructure and reduce the likelihood that the surface improvements have to be removed and replaced for future water line replacement work.

Contract K-2021-130 was approved by the Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) on June 18, 2021, in the amount of \$97,300 to provide engineering service for the James Garner Water Line project with Cowan Group Engineering, LLC (Cowan). Amendment No. 1 to design a separate project for the water line replacement and relocation was approved on January 13, 2026.

Contract K-2526-147 was approved on June 23, 2026, in the amount of \$2,489,010 for the water line replacement and relocation with Southwest Water Works, LLC.

DISCUSSION:

The project includes two railroad crossing replacements to completely upgrade the infrastructure through the corridor. The railroad is owned and operated by the BNSF Railway Company. As such, a new license agreement is required for each crossing.

Staff followed the required policies and procedures for the licensing process. Contract K-2627-40 is the License Agreement with the BNSF Railway Company to provide for a perpetual agreement for the crossing generally between Apache and Linn with a required fee of \$7,400.

The Classen/Flood-Highway 9 to Indian Hills Project (Account No. 31996683-46101 Construction, Project WA0338) has funds available.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Contract K-2627-40 with the BNSF Railway Company for the License Agreement for the water line crossing generally between Apache and Linn in the amount of \$7,400.