



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 08/12/2025

REQUESTER: Ken Giannone, PE

PRESENTER: Ken Giannone, PE, Capital Projects Engineer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, AWARDED, REJECTION, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-22: A RESOLUTION OF THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY GRANT FROM THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD FOR PROJECT WW0212, BISHOP CREEK EMERGENCY SEWER LINE REPAIR.

BACKGROUND:

On May 7, 2025, Utilities Department Line Maintenance staff were advised that an 18-inch aerial sewer crossing over Bishop Creek in the general vicinity of 730 Stinson Street had failed and sewage was discharging into the creek. Investigation determined that the failure was due to partial overturning of support piers caused by flood conditions in Bishop Creek resulting from several days of heavy rains. Due to the risk to the environment, the City Manager authorized emergency repairs to prevent further sewage discharge.

Under this emergency declaration, Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) staff received verbal price quotes to lease bypass pumps and appurtenances for temporarily diverting sewage flow, which lessened discharge into Bishop Creek and made it possible for a contractor to complete temporary repairs. Also under this emergency declaration, NUA staff received verbal bids from contractors to mobilize for immediate, albeit temporary, reconnection of the piping. This work was completed by 10:00 p.m. on May 7, 2025, which eliminated the discharge for the short term. It did not, however, restore the structural integrity of the crossing. Additionally, and in accordance with regulations, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and City of Norman Stormwater Quality were notified of the discharge.

Upon completion of this temporary repair, NUA staff contracted with Garver Engineers under their current on-call contract with the City of Norman to prepare an expedited design to replace the existing, failed aerial crossing that would be bid as an emergency project. Consequently, bidding documents for the Bishop Creek Emergency Sewer Line Repair (Project WW0212) were issued to ten (10) potential bidders on May 19, 2025, and at 4:00 pm on May 20, 2025, bids were received and publicly opened from four (4) bidders. The lowest and best bidder was determined to be Krapff-Reynolds Construction Co. (KRCC) with a low bid of \$748,550.

Consistent with the emergency declaration, contracts and bonds were immediately executed and notice to proceed with construction was issued to KRCC. On June 10, 2025, Norman City Council ratified the emergency declaration and affirmed the contract award to KRCC that was made in accordance with that declaration. Work on the repair is ongoing at this time.

DISCUSSION:

Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) offers Emergency Grants of up to \$100,000 for public utilities who have experienced an “emergency situation which could not have been avoided by reasonable care.” In order to be considered for the grant, NUA must submit an application to OWRB that includes details on the nature of the emergency as well as backup documentation confirming NUA’s current financial condition. This application must also include an executed resolution affirming that the NUA agrees to the submission of the application and an executed “Verification” form certifying that everything submitted in the application is truthful, correct and legal to the best of NUA’s ability.

It should be noted that any utility applying for an OWRB Emergency Grant must also agree to contribute a minimum of 15% in matching funds toward the project. This means that, if full maximum grant amount of \$100,000 were awarded, NUA would be responsible for paying a minimum of \$15,000 in matching funds toward the repair work. Since the contract in the amount of \$748,550 has already been executed for this project which far exceeds the potential \$100,000 in grant funding, the match requirement of \$15,000 will be met and is already encumbered.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that NUA approve Resolution R-2526-22, authorizing the NUA General Manager (City Manager) or his designee, Director of Utilities, or his agents to sign an application and related documents necessary to file and process an application with Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) for an Emergency Grant for Bishop Creek Emergency Sewer Line Repair, including, but not necessarily limited to, the OWRB’s attached “Verification” form.