



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 04/09/2024

REQUESTER: Rachel Croft, Water Treatment Plant Manager

PRESENTER: Rachel Croft, Water Treatment Plant Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF AMENDMENT ONE TO CONTRACT K-2223-16: BY AND BETWEEN THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND PLUMMER ASSOCIATES, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,286 FOR A REVISED CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$578,186 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GROUNDWATER BLENDING AND DISINFECTION SYSTEM PROJECT.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman/Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) currently owns and operates a well field with forty-three (43) active groundwater wells. The water produced from the groundwater wellfield is in compliance with all primary drinking water standards as established by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency. Historically, groundwater systems which are in compliance with the standards set forth in the Safe Drinking Water Act and Oklahoma Administrative Code 252:631 Public Water Supply Operation are not required to provide treatment or residual disinfectant. However, the NUA also treats and distributes surface water from Lake Thunderbird and purchases water from the City of Oklahoma. Both the surface water sources currently have chloramines as a residual disinfectant and blend with groundwater in the distribution system piping. Since Norman's system has combined surface and groundwater sources, ODEQ has indicated that the system will need to be modified such that a minimum disinfectant residual of 1.0 mg/L of chloramines (NH₂Cl) should be found throughout all parts of the system in the future. This requirement is also being mandated for other systems in Oklahoma that utilize both surface water and groundwater supplies in a common distribution system.

Additionally, groundwater from the Garber Wellington Aquifer can naturally contain arsenic, chromium, and other constituents. As drinking water regulations become more stringent, a centralized location is necessary to provide treatment since individual treatment systems at each well will require significant capital and operation costs.

Therefore, a centralized location to blend the groundwater wells and provide a residual disinfectant and possibly future treatment to meet future regulations is necessary. This plan was envisioned previously and land acquisition was a component of the successful 2015 water rate increase. On Jun 15, 2021, Contract K-2021-129 with Carollo Engineers, Inc. was approved to

evaluate possible land sites and develop preliminary layouts for the immediate and future needs for the groundwater blending and disinfection facility. As part of this contract, a 28-acre tract of land located at 4020 E Tecumseh Road was evaluated and determined to meet the current and future needs for the facility. This property was acquired under Contract K-2122-93 on February 22, 2022, with closing completed on March 10, 2022.

Contract K-2223-16 with Plummer Associates, Inc., was approved on October 11, 2022. Initial design efforts have been completed and a public meeting was held with nearby residents on December 11, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Following the public meeting, additional work is warranted to improve the initial design and complete additional renderings to better portray the finished use of the site. This amendment will provide three additional renderings, revise landscaping, and the layout of the site. Additionally, to accommodate minor changes following the next public meeting, additional design allowances of \$20,000 are included and can only be used with prior approval by staff.

Funds are available in the amount of \$846,010 in Well Field Blending WTP design account (WA0214-DESIGN – 31993398-46201). This is sufficient to fund the proposed contract amendment of \$49,286.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the NUA approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract K-2223-16 with Plummer Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$49,286 for a revised contract amount of \$578,186 for engineering services for the Groundwater Blending and Disinfection System.