



AGENDA MEMO

Business of the City Council

City of Sweeny, Texas

Meeting Date	05.210.2024	Agenda Items	
Approved by City Manager	Yes	Presenter(s)	Lindsay Koskiniemi, City Manager
Reviewed by City Attorney	No	Department	Gas Utility
Subject	Discussion and possible action on Council requested update on gas utility compliance and progress		
Council Strategic Goals	2. Infrastructure Investment – Support strategic investment in city facilities. 4. Government Sustainability – Ensure government transparency. 5. Safe and Beautiful City – Promotion of environmental stewardship, Enhancement of public safety and health...		
Attachments / Supporting documents	None		
Financial Information	Expenditure Required:	N/A	
	Amount Budgeted:	N/A	
	Account Number:		
	Additional Appropriation Required:		
	Additional Account Number:		

Executive Summary

At the special City Council session on May 9, 2024, Council requested updates on gas utility maintenance and regulatory compliance at all regular meetings until further notice.

In May 2024, the City underwent a Railroad Commission gas utility audit that has originally been scheduled for February 2024. At the time, staff was unaware of the audit, so the audit was postponed until recently.

The audit disclosed noncompliance issues that included not having an 8% system-wide steel service line replacement plan and accompanying replacement data, not having an updated Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP) on file (every 5 years), and the most recent DIMP plan (2015) disclosing improper recognition of appropriate threats within the plan, such as corrosion and weather conditions.

Staff is working to address and resolve noncompliance issues and has enrolled in the SHRIMP program, a \$19 annual program that provides access to DIMP templates and other valuable resources. Staff has created logins for SHRIMP and is currently working to update the DIMP, which will resolve two (2) of the six (6) violations.

Additionally, staff has begun the FY24 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure and Safety Modernization Grant that opened through the Department of Transportation on May 9, 2024. Currently, the City Engineer is assisting the City Manager with gathering cost opinions on the



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replacement of all steel services lines for compliance, all aged orange poly lines, and the installation of system-wide isolation valves in strategic locations with an accompanying GIS map. An updated DIMP will be required to be submitted with the grant application.

In a cursory review of the system needs and updates, we anticipate the request will be approximately \$5 million. In our evaluation, the City is an excellent candidate for this grant. The submission deadline for this grant is June 20, 2024, so we are working quickly and may leverage the help of a professional grant writer.

Recommended Action

No recommended action.