

City Council Report

Date: May 6, 2024

To: City Council

Through: Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer

From: Edward Quedens, Business Services Director

Kristy Garcia, Procurement Administrator

Subject: Three-Year Term Contract with a Three-Year Renewal Option for the

Development, Management, and Implementation of the Trees are Cool – Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards in the Desert Southwest Project for the Environmental and Sustainability Department (U.S. Forest

Service Grant) (Single Response) (Citywide)

Recommendation

Council is requested to approve the award as recommended.

A committee representing Environmental and Sustainability, Mesa Public Schools, and Procurement Services evaluated responses. The evaluation committee recommends awarding the single, responsive, and responsible proposal from Arizona Sustainability Alliance up to \$673,000 for the total term of the project based on the term of the grant.

Background / Discussion

In partnership with the City, Mesa Public Schools (MPS), and Trusts for Public Lands, Arizona Sustainability Alliance (AZSA) will work, develop, manage, and implement the U.S. Forest Service grant funded Trees Are Cool – Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards in the Desert Southwest project.

AZSA will offer planting and educational activities that inspire students to grow a greener, cooler, healthier community. The project will show students how to grow a healthy urban forest, increase tree canopy coverage, mitigate urban heat, and use our community's water resources efficiently. The project will plant trees and support teachers so they can implement local solutions at their schools. Students will explore and learn about urban forests through classroom and hands-on learning. Together, the City, MPS, AZSA, local water conservation, sustainability, and urban forestry organizations will show students how to grow a sustainable urban forest on their school campuses and in the community for future generations.

Trees Are Cool is a federally funded tree planting and education project for students living in Justice40 neighborhoods per the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CJEST) with little to no nature.

On February 13, 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposal to all registered and known Trees Are Cool – Growing the Next Generation of Tree Stewards in the Desert Southwest providers. One (1) proposal was received on March 12, 2024. The proposal was evaluated by a committee in accordance with the City's established policies and procedures. The single proposal, from Arizona Sustainability Alliance, met the requirements, scored a total of 145 points out of 150, and is being recommended for award. The evaluation committee unanimously agreed on the recommendation.

Procurement Services reached out to vendors who had registered under the commodity codes that were used for the solicitation to ask why they did not submit a response. A handful of emails came back as undeliverable and the remaining vendors indicated they did not provide the services the City was looking for.

Purchase Information

Action: Award

Procurement Type: Request for Proposals

Contract Number: 2024112

Local Consideration: Policy did not apply to this procurement method

Initial Contract Term: Three years

Possible Renewals: One three (3) year renewal subject to Administrative review and

approval

Funding Source: U.S. Forest Service Grant

Bid or Proposal Responses

Arizona Sustainability Alliance Phoenix, AZ \$672,265.00 (Recommended)

Final Proposal Scoring Results

Criteria	Points Possible	Arizona Sustainability Alliance (Recommend)
Proposed Solution/Method of Approach	50	50
Qualifications	50	50
Project Management and Key Personnel	45	40
Pricing and Compensation	5	5
Total	150	145