



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: David Sprague, Interim Fire Chief
Subject: Contract: Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance for Chipping Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments, with Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance to provide Chipping Services for two years from May 1, 2023 until April 30, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$700,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY 2023 and FY2024 Adopted Budget includes funding for vegetation management and fuel reduction efforts from a variety of sources that is available for use toward the cost of chipping services, including within the Fire Department (General Fund, Measure FF and/or UC Settlement Fund), Parks, Recreation and Waterfront (General Fund) and/or Public Works (Zero Waste Fund). The Fire Department is pursuing grants to offset the cost of this service and upon grant approval, these funds would be added to the Department budget through the Annual Appropriation Ordinance (AAO) process. Funding for FY 2025 is contingent upon the adoption of the FY 2025 & FY 2026 biennial budget.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City's current chipping program has been in operation for over a decade and serves only eight limited areas within Berkeley where residents pay a fire district surcharge. To support wide-spread and significant thinning and removal of vegetation that is anticipated to occur as part of the City's work to create more defensible space beginning in calendar year 2023, the chipping program will be modernized and potentially expanded to serve a larger portion of the City.

One of the key modernizations already in implementation is a piece of software that will provide easy online scheduling for residents, optimized route planning for the contractor, real-time data collection from the contractor, and management tools for the City. Program managers can track activity, measure performance and easily produce reports for grants and community updates.

F&K is the only vendor that has adequate staff and equipment to service Berkeley and over two years of experience working directly with the referenced software. F&K also has a detailed understanding of the event-based, curbside chipping program model planned this summer. Additionally, F&K has the following certifications and licenses: State Contractor's License with a C-27 certification (#748791); Small Business (Micro) certification, with a 721029 classification, by the California Department of General Services (#18296); certification as a State Minority Business Enterprise with the California Department of Transportation (#31098); registration with the California Department of Industrial Relations (#1000027030).

BACKGROUND

F & K responded to a Request for Proposal and was selected after submitting the most competitive bid. This RFP was publicly released on January 17th, 2022 by Fire Safe Marin. All chipping contractors in the area were eligible to bid on the project. Requirements for a complete bid offer included past experience running a full-service curbside chipping program and the ability to provide at least four, 3-person crews for work between Monday and Thursday over a 22-week period between May and October. Contractors were also required to submit detailed equipment lists that included multiple sized box trucks ranging from 14 to 24 cubic yard capacity as well as being able to supply their own chippers. This was necessary to ensure that there was enough equipment available to provide daily service and access to small roads in the hills.

All contractors were required to supply proof of insurance and liability coverage and agree to an onsite inspection of their service yard and equipment. In total, Fire Safe Marin received bids from 4 local contractors. A planning team made up of representatives from the five Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority JPA districts which includes Bolinas Fire District, City of Larkspur, City of Mill Valley, City of San Rafael, County of Marin Fire, Inverness Fire District, Kentfield Fire District, Marinwood Community Services District, Muir Beach Community Services District, Novato Fire District, Sleepy Hollow Fire District, Southern Marin Fire District, Stinson Beach Fire District, Town of Corte Madera, Town of Fairfax, Town of Ross, and the Town of San Anselmo reviewed all the bids and selected Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance.

While Fire Safe Marin is a non-profit 501(c)3, the RFP process followed the customary procurement procedures and best practices utilized by all Marin County government agencies (e.g. – Fire Protection Districts, Special Protection Districts, JPAs, etc.). The planning team overseeing the RFP process included government employees from the jurisdictions that make-up the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA). All these employees had decades of experience overseeing RFPs for their respective agencies. Lastly, the contract between the MWPA and the winning bidder (Forster & Kroeger) was drafted by lawyers representing the MWPA. Fire Safe Marin was simply the organization that handled the administrative functions associated with publishing the RFP.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This program will support the removal and thinning of hazardous vegetation which will create more defensible space and help prevent a wildfire from becoming a conflagration. A smaller wildfire will generate a smaller volume of smoke if one does ignite in or adjacent to the City.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

It is critically important that this program and contractor are in place by Spring 2023 for a successful delivery in early Summer 2023. This contract will provide two-seasons of service from F & K, who has implemented an equally complex program in Marin County.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Purchasing the necessary apparatus, equipment and hiring numerous part-time employees required to run the program. This would be significantly more expensive and require a degree of management and supervision that the City does not have staff to fulfill.

CONTACT PERSON

David Sprague, Interim Fire Chief, (510) 981-3473

Attachment

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: FORSTER & KROEGER LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE FOR CHIPPING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City's current chipping program has been in operation for over a decade and serves only eight limited areas within Berkeley where residents pay a fire district surcharge, and

WHEREAS, to support wide-spread and significant thinning and removal of vegetation that is anticipated to occur as part of the City's work to create more defensible space beginning in calendar year 2023, the chipping program will be modernized and potentially expanded to serve a larger portion of the City, and

WHEREAS, Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance responded to a Request for Proposal and was selected after submitting the most competitive bid through an RFP publicly released on January 17th, 2022 by Fire Safe Marin.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments, with Forster & Kroeger Landscape Maintenance to provide Chipping Services for two years from May 1, 2023 until April 30, 2025 in the amount not to exceed \$700,000.