CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2024-256 Approving a contract with Alvarez & Marsal to provide Professional Administrative Support Services and Technical Assistance for the ARPA Community Revitalization Program.

MEETING DATE
February 20, 2024

ORIGINATING DEPT
Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services

REVIEWED BY
Dept. Head: Troy Bolander; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nicholas Edwards; Finance Director: Leslie Haase

SUMMARY
This Council Bill approves a contract ("Exhibit A") with Alvarez & Marsal to provide administrative support and technical assistance in the administration of the ARPA Community Revitalization Program suite of housing projects that was approved by Resolution 2023-005.

BACKGROUND
The federal American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") of 2021 established a Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("SLFRF") for the purpose of responding to the impact of COVID-19 and the affects felt within communities, residents, and businesses across the nation. The funding aims to provide local governments with the resources to respond to the public health emergency and its economic impacts within four allowable use categories.

The Department of Treasury awarded the State of Missouri a $2.5 billion share of federal funding after which time the Missouri General Assembly appropriated $100 million of the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Missouri Department of Economic Development ("DED") for community development and revitalization. The DED then established the ARPA Community Revitalization Grant Program, a competitive program that requires a 50% funding match. The City of Joplin applied to and was awarded $3.5 million with the $3.5 million match provided through the City's local ARPA award.

The Seven Million funding stream will supply three housing projects that will advance neighborhood revitalization in three distinct ways. The $3 million Joplin Homeowner's Assistance Program will offer up to $40,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance; the $2 million Joplin Home Repair Program will offer up to $25,000 for home repairs; and finally the $2 million Demolition Program that will offer up to $10,000 to offset the costs of demolition for vacant properties that have been deemed dangerous.

BID PROCESS SUMMARY

The Planning, Development, and Neighborhood Services department issued Request for Proposal #2023-RFP-12 ("Exhibit B") for Services related to the administration of the ARPA Community Revitalization Program. Despite documented outreach to solicit responses from disadvantaged businesses across several categories, a total of two organizations responded as evidenced in the bid tabulation ("Exhibit C").

Both organizations were invited to interview with the proposal evaluation team comprised of two staff members from Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services, one from the Building Division, one Project Coordinator, and one Finance Department member.

The interview team independently evaluated each organization's response to questions broadly categorized as: resource allocation, compliance, project timelines, and value add. The team graded each respondent and the average score identified Alvarez & Marsal as the winning firm, as documented in the Interview tabulation ("Exhibit F").

EXHIBITS

"Exhibit A" - Alvarez & Marsal Contract; "Exhibit B" - Request for Proposals;
"Exhibit C" – Bid tabulation; "Exhibit D" - Alvarez & Marsal Proposal;
"Exhibit E" – Guidehouse Proposal; "Exhibit F" – Interview tabulation

FUNDING SOURCE

$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand) ARPA, with the balance coming from Use Tax funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this council bill for Professional Administrative Support Services with Alvarez & Marsal on a first reading.