CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill 2021-157 – approving a Work Authorization AMA-OC21-013 with Allgeier, Martin and Associates (AMA) for professional engineering consulting services for the review, evaluation and update of the City's current MS4 program.

MEETING DATE
September 7, 2021

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT
Public Works - Engineering

ATTACHMENTS
Council Bill 2021-157, Work Authorization

REVIEWED BY
Director of Public Works: David Hertzberg; Director of Finance: Leslie Haase; City Attorney: Peter Edwards; City Manager: Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY
This Council Bill authorizes the City Manager or his designee to approve a work authorization with Allgeier, Martin and Associates in the not to exceed amount of Eighty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($80,000.00) for professional engineering consulting services for the review, evaluation and update of the City's current MS4 program.

BACKGROUND

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permitting program labels municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) as either "small", "medium" or "large" for the purposes of regulation. The City of Joplin, as a regulated small MS4 operator, is required to submit a permit application and obtain coverage under a NPDES storm water permit. Under the permit, the City is required to develop and implement a storm water management program that includes six minimum control measures (MCMs), evaluation /assessment and reporting efforts, and recordkeeping. Furthermore, the permit requires the City to submit best management practices to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) under the direction of the EPA, identify sources of pollution and contamination, and create and enforce programs and ordinances to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges into stormwater conveyance systems.

With the 2021 MS4 Permit renewal application, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will be mandating the transition of municipalities and other regulated entities to one of two new permit formats.

1. Comprehensive General Permit
2. Two-Step General Permit

In coordinating with MDNR through several workshops and correspondences and given the extensive work City staff have put into the development of its current SWMP with MDNR, the City has elected to renew its permit under the comprehensive general permit, consistent with the majority of the other traditional MS4s (cities and counties) in the state.

In general, the Two-Step general permit has been selected by non-traditional MS4s (such as universities, hospitals, complexes, prisons, and federal facilities).

Per State and Federal requirements, the City held a minimum 30-day comment period for the public to provide any input pertaining to the City's SWMP or the comprehensive general permit application. City staff uploaded the SWMP, as well as the permit application, to the City's website for public viewing and held a public meeting at City Hall on March 11th, 2021 to answer any questions its citizens may have prior to the April 3rd, 2021 permit application deadline.

With the new comprehensive general permit, the City will once again be required to update its SWMP to adhere to the updated requirements and regulations outlined in the comprehensive general permit. Unlike the past permit which contained previously vague language in its Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), the comprehensive general permit outlines clear, specific and measurable goals for the City's SWMP and MCMs.

Under the City's on-call consulting services for stormwater, Allgeier, Martin and Associates was selected as the most qualified consulting firm to provide the City assistance with its MS4 permit. This conclusion was based on AMA's previous experience in providing this service to the City in the past as well as their involvement in the development of and familiarity with pertinent City stormwater guidelines and directives (such as the stormwater management criteria manual and the 2nd iteration of the City's stormwater masterplan). Under this work authorization, AMA will review the City's stormwater management plan including, but not limited to, the minimum control measures, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and monitoring, record keeping, and reporting documents to provide comments and recommendations as well as draft forms and documents necessary for the City of Joplin to maintain compliance with the new comprehensive general permit.

FUNDING SOURCE

These payments are included in the FY 2020-21 budget of the Parks and Storm Water Sales Tax.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of this Council Bill No. 2021-157, Work Authorization AMA-OC21-013 with AMA in the not to exceed amount of Eighty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars ($80,000.00) on an emergency basis, in that said ordinance provides for public improvement and is considered to be an emergency per section 2.12(6) of the HOME RULE CHARTER of the City of Joplin, Missouri, and as such, this ordinance shall become effectively immediately upon its passage. Specifically, approval of this council bill on an emergency basis will allow for completion of the review, evaluation and update of the City's current MS4 program by December 31st 2021 in order to ensure continued compliance with State and Federal regulations as outlined in the MDNR's comprehensive permit as well as to allow for ongoing MS4 assistance on an on-call basis for the City's upcoming permit cycle.