

To: Finance Committee
From: Wayne Seymour, Risk Manager
Date: February 10, 2015
RE: Monitoring Systems for Hazardous Atmospheric Conditions

Hazardous atmospheric monitoring equipment is utilized by all departments on a frequent basis and daily by some. Monitoring of conditions within confined spaces is an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) requirement. The City currently leases fifteen four-gas monitors and ten docking stations, all of which is under warranty for the duration of the contract. The system is self-sufficient with minimal user interface. Each piece of equipment is monitored remotely, 365 days per year, 24 hours per day by a technical support team. The equipment is remotely calibrated for accuracy to regulatory standard default settings that address the hazards associated with the work of various City work crews. The system is designed to perform frequent functional diagnostic reviews for the purpose of recognizing equipment errors or potential malfunctions, alerting individual operators of test results in real time. The system also generates administrative reports, by location, and maintains historical use data for the City. Faults are addressed through technical support or equipment exchanges as system non-compliance dictates.

The City's current contract with i-Net has recently expired. The cost of the contract was \$2,287.60 per month for the aforementioned equipment and services. There are a limited number of vendors that provide similar computer based systems. In order to ensure comparable results, staff contacted three such vendors for quotes, Airgas, Industrial Scientific (i-Net), and Mine Safety Appliances (MSA). The request was to quote a computer-based system, offering remote calibration and monitoring, training, similar 4-gas monitoring, and replacement of leased equipment as needed.

The responses are as follows:

- Airgas leases equipment but does not offer a monitoring or an exchange system.
- MSA's equipment must be purchased outright. Repairs, replacement units, parts and technical support are in addition to the purchase price.
- i-Net's response met all the requirements of the request.
- Neither Airgas nor MSA chose to bid against i-Net. The vendor representative stated they could not compete.

i-Net's price was \$2,274.45 per month for a 48 month contract. This pricing is essentially unchanged from our current contract. Their response includes 16 monitors, 10 docking stations, an upgraded "Cloud-based" computer management system (non-server style), operator training, and various support equipment such as regulators, powered air pumps, the exchange and change-out of our current

equipment with the latest models of monitoring equipment with installation of the Ventis MX4 gas monitors. 24/7 and 365 day technical service and administrative reporting as previously stated.

Staff recommendation is to award the contract for Monitoring Systems for Hazardous Atmospheric Conditions to i-Net. If approved by the Committee, this will need to be approved by the City Council, as the cost of the contract for the four year period is in excess of \$100,000.