



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Transit Commission	Date: 4/8/2021
Common Council Item Number: 21-2004	Date: 4/20/2021
Submitted By: Fred Abadi- Public Works	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator Click here to enter text.
Finance Department Review: Bridget Souffrant, Finance Director BS	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney Click here to enter text.
Subject: Approval to Purchase Replacement Automatic Vehicle Location System from GMV Syncromatics	

Details:
 This item is to seek the approval to purchase a replacement Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) System from GMV Syncromatics (Syncromatics) for \$223,975. The budget approved for the AVL replacement in the 2021 CIP was \$225,000. The new AVL system would replace the current system that was implemented in 2014. Federal grants will pay for \$179,180 of the purchase (80%) with the remaining \$44,795 from the City. In addition, the purchase would include a 5-year service agreement to operate the system with an annual cost of \$23,451.

A Request for Proposals for the replacement AVL system was conducted and an Evaluation Committee consisting of Transit Staff and Greg Vanness from the City IT staff was formed to review the proposals. A total of 5 proposals were received, one proposal was deemed technically deficient and virtual interviews were held with the remaining 4 vendors. After the first round of interviews, the Evaluation Committee determined that two systems were technically sufficient for consideration and held follow up interviews with the Finalists which included in-depth demonstrations of the systems. From the in-depth interviews, the Evaluation Committee felt that the Syncromatics system was by far the best solution from a technical standpoint. Factoring in costs, Syncromatics overall score was still noticeably higher and represents the best value. The difference in the capital costs between Syncromatics and the next firm, Connexionz, is the cost of the mobile data terminal (MDT). The Syncromatics MDT proposed is commercial grade whereas Connexionz proposed a consumer grade MDT. Mr. Vanness highly recommended the commercial grade MDT given the environment it will reside in.

AVL systems have advanced greatly over the past 7 years and are much more than bus tracking technology. New systems can greatly enhance the operations of the transit system. The new AVL system will have many enhancements over the current system including:

1. A Voice Annunciation System that will automatically announce major stops along the route which will enhance the passenger's experience and ensure ADA compliance with the requirement to call out major destinations.
2. System integration with other systems on the bus including the destination signs. The signs will automatically change based on location vs. having the drivers having to manually change the signs which enhances safety and virtually eliminates wear and tear on the sign keypads.



3. Ease of use for staff. Making changes to the system is much more efficient for staff and allow for less staff time devoted to changes to service.
4. The new system has open data sharing that will allow for use for 3rd party mobile real time and trip planning apps and bus tracking. This also allows for future integrations with real time signage at major bus stops.
5. The new system also will allow for new and growing technology and not remain in a static state and should allow for Syncromatics to remain a technology partner long term.
6. Improvements in reports. The reporting module will include enhanced operational reports and automatically generate data needed for mandatory reports for the FTA which will reduce staff time and eliminate potential for errors.
7. Flexibility to add additional components over time. The system is modular and allows components such as Automatic Passenger Counters (APC)s to be added later without issues.

Options & Alternatives:

The option of rejecting all proposals and staying with the current system is not viable as it would greatly limit the Transit System and not allow for the improvements listed above in the details. In addition, the Federal funds allocated to this project are lapsing. Another option would be to go against the recommendation and award to the other finalist Connexionz. As stated in the details, the MDT Connexionz proposed would not be as durable and the system as not as technologically as advanced. In addition, Syncromatics provides training for the life for no additional charge whereas Connexionz only provides training during implementation which as Supervisory and Administrative staff turns over; additional training costs in the thousands of dollars will be incurred over the 5 year service agreement period.

Financial Remarks:

Total cost of the AVL system is \$223,975. Federal grants will pay for \$179,180 of the purchase (80%) with the remaining \$44,795 from 0430-4350-68390. This purchase was approved in the 2021 CIP. The annual operating expense of \$23,451 will commence after system acceptance which is tentatively schedule for Fall 2021 and is paid from the Transit operating budget.

Executive Recommendation:

Recommend approval.