



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: Finance	Date: March 26, 2019
Common Council Item Number: 19-0250	Date: April 4, 2019
Submitted: Fire Chief Steve Howard	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KML
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Review and act on authorizing the Mayor to end the existing Local Program Operator Contract between Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and City of Waukesha/Waukesha Fire Department.	

Details:

The Fire Department is requesting permission to end our existing contract with the State of Wisconsin for providing underground and aboveground fuel tank inspection services. The time saved (approximately 80 hours per year) from conducting these inspections will be used to conduct additional reinspections of residential and commercial properties. The department has been a service provider for the State of Wisconsin to conduct annual inspections of aboveground and underground storage tanks and non-retail locations throughout the City. When the program began, the department's enforcement efforts corrected many life-safety, fire and environmental hazards. All current tank systems in our community meet modern fire codes and environmental standards.

The department is requesting to end the agreement due to several factors, including:

- Inspections are now focused on compliance with environmental monitoring requirements.
- The State has implemented a cumbersome computer program that has greatly increased the time it takes to complete a required inspection.
- The need for dedicated computer that is not normally used by fire inspectors.
- Failure to receive compensation for inspections conducted due to software and database issues.

As part of submitting the department's 2019 operating budget, all revenue for conducting these inspections was removed. In 2017, the department received \$3,993 for inspection services related to this program.

The existing contract has been reviewed by City Attorney Brian Running. He has provided the department with the necessary wording to provide to the State of Wisconsin to end the contract. After providing notice, the agreement will be terminated in 30 days.



Options & Alternatives:

The alternative is to continue to provide services to the State as per the agreement.

Financial Remarks:

2019 Budget was adopted anticipating elimination of this revenue.

Executive Recommendation:

The City Administrator is supportive of ending this agreement and using the time saved to conduct additional residential and commercial inspections.