

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Council

FROM: Tom Bergeson, Public Works Director and Jeffrey L. McCormick, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: FuelMaster Replacement and Rolling Gates

DATE: 12-11-15

BACKGROUND

Staff has been discussing the fuel pumps utilized by Public Works and the Police Department at Public Works. The operational part of the system is the FuelMaster station, which authorizes the pumps to dispense fuel. They are no longer making or have a stock of parts for the current system, which could result in the pump being out of service for some time while they try and find used parts or having to do an unplanned upgrade. Staff felt it was better to do a planned upgrade at this time because of the need and that 2015 budgets have not incurred planned expenses: Public Works had lower snow removal costs and the Police had wage savings from a vacant position.

While talking about the Fuel Master system, the discussion also included having the other city departments (Ambulance and Fire), currently not using the City fuel pumps use the system which would provide a savings to the departments and the City by purchasing at bulk prices as opposed to retail pricing.

One problem faced at this time for Ambulance and Fire is the gate for Public Works must be unlocked after hours and rolled open manually. This issue was identified in 2013 and was one of the items considered for the excess reserve funds, but was not selected for that funding. The gate at Public Works is also not a security gate and we have had theft problems there this year. The Police Department is the primary user of the current gate when locked and we have had some issues with frozen locks and slippery road surface. Eliminating the manual gate and reducing the potential of injury is a significant benefit. Staff felt that adding a security gate to the main entrance with an automated rolling function could solve two issues. The rear gate is already a rolling gate, but is manual operation, so that gate operation would also be automated. The reasoning behind adding automation to the rear gate also is to allow Fire and Ambulance the ability to fuel without having to turn vehicles around to leave, plus it does have the added advantage of a backup entrance if one gate were to fail, which is important for emergency services use.

The upgraded system could be used with additional features like nozzle rings that would allow fueling for equipped vehicles without having to enter any information. That feature would also read operational details and alert if problems need attention. This is not planned as part of this project, but could be added later to the system.

At this time, we have determined a project cost based on the lower of two quotes received. There has not been any response from a third vendor, so if received it could be lower, but the numbers below would be the amount to complete the project based on quotes received. The project costs would be split based on fuel usage.

Department totals for the project:

PW - \$ 10,719

PD - \$ 6,300

AMB. -\$ 3,950

FD - \$ 3,800

Total: \$ 24,769

For Ambulance and Fire there would be cost savings going from retail to bulk pricing. The exact amount is hard to determine without pulling every receipt, but Public Works staff using the same usage figures estimated the savings would be about \$1,000 annually for Fire and Ambulance, giving a return on investment in about four years. Public Works and the Police Department already are using the City fuel system so they would not have a realized fuel savings from this, but would have operational savings in time and lower risk of injury to employees. The bulk of the cost for this project will be for Police and Public Works and both have funds to cover this in the 2015 budget.

The Ambulance Director felt this was a good direction, liked the payoff timeline and additional savings after that and felt the cost share was equitable and this project should be done. The Fire Chief said they had previously used the City pumps but it was a burdensome process for their staff in opening and locking the gate when fueling and moved to using an offsite retail location. The Fire Chief felt this could solve those past problems.

Remote controllers for the gates are part of this project and one would be in the driver compartment of all fueling vehicles so they would not have to get out of the vehicle, which was something that both the Ambulance Director and Fire Chief liked.

This project was discussed at the Public Works Commission on December 1, 2015 and they agreed this was a project that made sense and should be done.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the project to upgrade the FuelMaster system and install rolling gates with remote controllers as recommended by the Public Works Commission.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Approve a motion to authorize the project to upgrade the FuelMaster system and install rolling gates with remote controllers.