



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** {{item.number}}

**Agenda Date:** March 20, 2025

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Finance Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Troy Elliott

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** District 1

**SUBJECT:**

Barges for the Riverwalk

**SUMMARY:**

This ordinance authorizes a contract with Uncle J Custom Boats, LLP for the purchase of two barges for the River Walk for the Center City Development & Operations (CCDO) Department for the total cost of \$57,000. Funding is available from the General Fund FY 2025 Adopted Budget.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Submitted for Council consideration and action is the attached bid tabulation for the purchase of two aluminum barges for CCDO. The current steel barges are 20 years old, and do not compliment the new electric tour boat fleet. The two new aluminum barges will replace two existing barges that have met their useful life, and will be converted to natural gas. The existing barges are slowly becoming unrepairable and difficult for staff to operate safely, efficiently, and effectively. The newly designed aluminum maintenance barges are aesthetically pleasing, as well as provide increased efficiency for important maintenance operations and create a safer work environment for River Walk staff. Historically, there has been a total of twelve maintenance barges utilized by CCDO to transport equipment, perform landscaping, trash pick-up, cleaning, and maintenance along the River Walk.

The City issued an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for “Barges for the River Walk” (IFB 6100018646) on December 6, 2024, with a submission deadline of January 15, 2025. The IFB was advertised in the HartBeat, TVSA channel, the City’s Bidding & Contracting Opportunities website, the San Antonio e-Procurement System and an email notification was released to a list of potential bidders. Four bids were received. Uncle J Custom Boats, LLP met the published specifications and is recommended for contract award.

The term of the contract will be upon award by City Council and will terminate upon delivery of all goods ordered.

**ISSUE:**

This contract will provide two barges for the River Walk maintenance personnel to perform general maintenance duties and equipment transport as needed. The contract will ensure that River Walk grounds are attractive and the general equipment is functioning efficiently. The barges will have a 5-year warranty and a 15-year life expectancy. Uncle J. Custom Boats, LLP must receive a Purchase Order by March 31, 2025, in order for the City to receive current bid pricing and receive the barges in 60 calendar days.

The Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) Ordinance requirements were waived due to the lack of small, minority and/or women owned businesses available to provide these items.

There were no bids submitted from local bidders for this contract; therefore, the Local Preference Program was not applied.

The Veteran-Owned Small Business Preference Program does not apply to goods/supply contracts, so no preference was applied to this contract.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Should this contract not be approved, CCDO will continue to use the existing barges; however, two of the current barges have met their useful life requirement and the units are no longer economically feasible to repair. CCDO may face the risk of barges failing at any time, incurring increased maintenance costs and potential delay in the delivery of services for the City.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance authorizes a contract with Uncle J Custom Boats, LLP for the purchase of two barges for the River Walk for the Center City Development & Operations (CCDO) Department for the total cost of \$57,000. Funding is available from the General Fund FY 2025 Adopted Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

This contract was procured on the basis of low bid, and a Contracts Disclosure Form is not required.