



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 13

Agenda Date: September 15, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Finance Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Troy Elliott

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

TVSA Studio Upgrades for Communications & Engagement

SUMMARY:

Approval of this ordinance authorizes a contract with Unicom Government, Inc. for the purchase, delivery, commissioning, and maintenance of studio CamBot a system which will deliver and maintain the studio's remote-controlled camera system, and the corresponding graphic hardware and software for a total cost of \$565,804.50. This ordinance will appropriate \$565,804.50 in the FY 2022 Public Education and Government (PEG) Fund budget, TVSA Studio Upgrades project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Submitted for Council consideration and action is an offer submitted by Unicom Government, Inc. to provide the purchase, delivery, commissioning, and maintenance of studio CamBot and graphics hardware and corresponding software for the Communications & Engagement (C&E) Department. CamBot is a remote-controlled camera system that is installed in the TVSA studios and efficiently allows for one producer to control the lateral movements, pant, tilt, and zoom functions of multiple robotic camera pedestals on the studio floor from the control room. The CamBot streamlines

productions and provide for a high quality product, as is expected by users of the studio. The components that need replacement are the computers and software that control these robotic camera pedestals. Also included in this purchase are computer and software upgrades for the digital studio background sets and built-in graphic elements that are no longer functioning. The purchase of these hardware and software upgrades will ensure that the studio CamBot system and digital graphics systems are operating correctly. This equipment and service is required to operate the TVSA and Public Access studios and support field television production operations.

Pursuant to Chapter 66 of the Texas Utilities Code, the City receives PEG funding from cable and video providers operating in and providing service in the City. The City is also responsible for management and operation of the City's PEG Access Channels. Chapter 66 requires that PEG funds be spent on capital costs that support PEG access channel facilities, which would be facilities and equipment used to provide programming to the PEG channels.

The equipment includes updates for robotic in-studio camera pedestal controls, graphics and virtual set machines, and remote-installation services. The equipment will be installed in the government and public access television studios located at 115 Plaza de Armas. The original equipment was installed between 2014 and 2015 and has been used extensively for high profile productions and public access. The studios have hosted COVID-19 briefings, production of public service announcements, virtual town hall meetings, and other public information video productions. The studios are also regularly used by members of the community who are producing content for the Public Access Channel.

The equipment in the studios has surpassed its estimated lifespan and has resulted in some production failures and production disruptions. The replacement and upgrade of the equipment will ensure the TVSA studios remain an accessible production studio for the City and the public.

The City issued a Request for Offer (RFO) for "TVSA Studio Upgrades for Communications & Engagement Department" to Unicom Government, Inc. on May 20, 2022, with a submission deadline of May 25, 2022.

This purchase through Cooperative Contract #4400006645 is made in accordance with the U.S. Communities (OMNIA Partners) Cooperative Program and passed on Ordinance 98797 Dated 2/12/2004. The use of the cooperative contract allows the Communications & Engagement Department to purchase brand specific equipment from Ross Video to match the existing equipment, in a timely manner to ensure the equipment which is already at its end of life does not fail.

The initial term of the agreement shall begin upon approval of the contract by City Council and terminate upon completion of all work.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes a contract with Unicom Government, Inc. for the purchase, delivery, commissioning, and maintenance of studio CamBot and graphics hardware and corresponding software for the Communications & Engagement Department for a total cost of \$565,804.50.

Funding for this contract is available from the Public Education and Government (PEG) Fund budget.

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

This contract is an exception to the Local Preference Program.

The Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB) Preference Program does not apply to non-professional service contracts, so no preference was applied to this contract.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should this contract not be approved, the Communications & Engagement Department would be required to issue individual procurements to replace or repair studio equipment that is used for high profile City and public access productions. Processing individual procurements as needed may delay delivery requirements and limit the City's ability to maintain an environment that supports these productions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves a contract with Unicom Government, Inc. for the purchase, delivery, commissioning, and maintenance of studio CamBot and graphics hardware and corresponding software for a total cost of \$565,804.50. This ordinance will also appropriate \$565,804.50 in the FY 2022 Public Education and Government (PEG) Fund budget, TVSA Studio Upgrades.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of an ordinance for acceptance of a contract with Unicom Government, Inc. for the purchase, delivery, commissioning, and maintenance of studio CamBot and graphics hardware and corresponding software for a total cost of \$565,804.50 and to appropriate \$565,804.50 in the FY 2022 Public Education and Government (PEG) Fund budget, TVSA Studio Upgrades for Communications & Engagement Department.

This contract is procured by means of cooperative purchasing and a Discretionary Contract Disclosure Form is not required.