

**CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

ITEM:

Council Bill 2022-275 – Approving both a contract and work authorization with Alvarez and Marsal Infrastructure and Capital Projects, LLP to provide administrative services for developing and providing broadband and connectivity solutions for the City of Joplin

MEETING DATE:

July 5, 2022

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:

Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services

ATTACHMENTS:

CB 2022-275 Ordinance; Attachment 1 - Master Agreement for Professional Project Advisory Support Services; Exhibit A – Work Authorization No. 1; Alvarez and Marsal Bid Response; City of Joplin RFP; Summary of Final Scores, City Staff Review Team Comments.

REVIEWED BY:

Director of Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services-Troy Bolander, Director of Finance-Leslie Haase, City Attorney- Peter Edwards, City Manager-Nicholas Edwards.

SUMMARY:

The Council Bill approves a contract with Alvarez and Marsal to help the city in developing and implementing solutions for problems with access, capacity and affordability with fiber and broadband connectivity in the City of Joplin.

BACKGROUND:

The Smarter Joplin Roadmap (<http://www.joplinmo.org/DocumentCenter/View/9575/Smarter-Joplin-Roadmap-Optimizedpdf>) identified, through citizen engagement and surveys, the technology issues currently facing the City of Joplin. Broadband and fiber connectivity was a primary concern identified. The extent of the problem with fiber and broadband connectivity in Joplin was identified in the Broadband GAP Analysis Report (http://www.joplinmo.org/DocumentCenter/View/10293/Joplin-Internet_Broadband-Gap-Report-v2---10_06_2021-2). As a result, city staff is requesting to hire a firm through a request for proposal (RFP) to help the city develop and implement solutions to address the problems with fiber and broadband connectivity that were identified in the Broadband GAP Analysis Report.

Per the RFP response received from Alvarez and Marsal, the firm will spend approximately 4,000 hours at a cost not to exceed of \$797,618 designing and implementing solutions to ensure all residents have access to fiber or can be connected. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that not all Joplin residents can work, educate, or receive healthcare from home. Changes in the workforce, education, business/industry, transportation, healthcare, and other sectors that rely on the exchange of data and information must be “connected” to compete. Alvarez and Marsal will provide a host of services to help the city determine what is the best and most cost-effective plan and projects to ensure all of Joplin is connected. They will also help the city implement the plan and projects. Some of the services provided by Alvarez and Marsal include:

- Development of project execution and implementation plans
- Update of past plans
- Analyze public private partnership opportunities
- Model the financial resources
- Seek and obtain funding sources
- Find and negotiate with private providers to provide service
- Monitor construction progress
- Provide project status reports
- Collaborate and keep city leadership informed of project milestones

The Master Services Agreement defines the expectations between both the City and Alvarez and Marsal. The Work Authorization identifies what specific services the city currently needs from the consultant. By separating this project into individual work authorizations, it allows the city to better manage the funding, time and services needed from the consultant.

SUMMARY OF BID PROCESS:

Two responses were received for Broadband Deployment Consultant Services.

- Rebel
- Alvarez and Marsal

A city staff team of five was assembled to evaluate the responses to the RFP. The team was comprised of representatives from Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services, Public Works and Finance.

Each response was scored and both firms were interviewed by the city team. The questions and score sheets are attached for your review. Alvarez and Marsal was selected to provide the Broadband Deployment Consultant Services.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR): \$448,000

General Fund: \$352,000

This council bill includes a budget amendment to the general fund in the amount of \$352,000 to complete this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of both the Master Agreement and first Work Authorization. The first work authorization for services is for \$438,690.

This Ordinance is an emergency within the meaning of Section 2.2 (6) in that said ordinance provides for public improvements and is considered an emergency by the Council and as such shall become effective immediately upon this passage as provided by the Home Rule Charter for the City of Joplin.

This Ordinance is an emergency within this meaning of Section 2.12 (4), of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Joplin, Missouri, in that said Ordinance requires an appropriation adjustment.