

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2021

SUBJECT: AWARD OF BID NO. 7861 FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SIX 15KV THREE-PHASE POLE MOUNTED AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT RECLOSERS WITH G&W ELECTRIC COMPANY, FOR \$275,922.68

ISSUES:

Consider awarding Bid No. 7861 to G&W Electric Company for the Procurement of Six (6) 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers, in the amount of \$275,922.68; and determine that the bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. is non-responsive.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Award Bid No. RPU-7861 to G&W Electric Company of Bolingbrook, Illinois, in the amount of \$275,922.68 for the Procurement of Six (6) 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers;
2. Determine that the bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. of Corona, California, in the amount of \$182,195.75 is non-responsive; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the project described herein, as well as the ability to make minor non-substantive changes in alignment with all purchasing policies.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) approved a Distribution Reliability Improvement Plan for electric distribution circuits. Implementing Distribution Automation (DA) has been outlined as a critical component for reducing outages' duration and the number of customers impacted. RPU is incorporating new technology to help improve the overall electric system reliability, part of the efforts to deliver reliable power to our customers is to maintain healthy reliability indices. These indices include System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). High numbers of these indices give a low rating to the utility's reliability.

RPU has experienced numerous circuit outages where the substation breaker trips, affecting the entire circuit. When this occurs, the SAIDI clock starts counting until the circuit is completely restored. In order to minimize the SAIDI index, these outages must be contained downstream from the substation breaker. This can be achieved by installing electronic reclosers in our electric system. Integration of new automated technology was identified as part of the Utility 2.0 Electric Infrastructure Road Map.

DISCUSSION:

The reclosers are strategically installed on a circuit downstream from the substation. Their main purpose is to isolate faults downstream from the recloser and to keep customers energized, upstream of the recloser. In addition, these devices have the ability to test the fault downstream to verify when cleared. This feature is very important for intermittent faults caused by palm fronds, abundant in Riverside. The recloser makes three attempts to clear the fault before locking out due to a permanent fault, all while the substation circuit breaker is still closed and customers upstream from the recloser are still energized. This feature helps reduce the time and number of customers affected by the outage and does not affect the SAIDI or SAIFI. RPU is currently seeking approval to purchase six (6) of these electronic reclosers to be installed in key areas where reliability can be improved. Future orders for these reclosers will be made through Central Stores and will be store stock items.

The purchase of the equipment and material is covered under Section 404 of Purchasing Resolution No. 23256. Purchasing Resolution 23256, Section 404 provides that Automatic Reclosers with associated controllers and communications equipment are peculiar to the needs of the Electric Utility and may be acquired by informal procurement regardless of their estimated procurement expenditure amounts, provided that the Board of Public Utilities (Board) has approved the proposed acquisition if required under the provisions of the City Charter, either by approval of the procurement contract or approval of annual purchase orders. The City of Riverside Charter, Section 1202 provides that the Board has the power and duty to approve any purchase of materials, supplies, goods, or services when the amount exceeds \$50,000.

Bid No. 7861 for the Procurement of Six (6) 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers was posted on the City's Online Bid System on July 19, 2021 and closed August 2, 2021. Two vendors submitted bids for the specified reclosers. Staff evaluated the bids and deemed G&W Electric Company of Bolingbrook, Illinois to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. was deemed non-responsive per engineering evaluation, alternative item does not meet qualifications of Spec.1-3.81 Rev 3, per bid specifications. The bids are summarized in the table below:

Vendors	City Location	Bid Amount	Rank
G&W Electric Company	Bolingbrook, IL	\$275,922.68	1
Anixter, Inc.	Corona, CA	\$182,195.75	Non-Responsive

The Purchasing Manager concurs that the recommended actions are in compliance with Purchasing Resolution No. 23256.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity and Goal No. 6.2 – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

This item aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The implementation of distribution automation critical components such as the automatic electronic circuit reclosers will improve safety and reliability of the electric system, which helps build community trust and results in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The automatic electronic circuit reclosers will be installed based on engineering planning and operational criteria, with equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The automatic electronic circuit reclosers will isolate outages downstream from the recloser, keeping customers upstream of the recloser energized. By isolating the outage, electric field personnel will repair the fault more efficiently, reducing overall operational costs.
4. **Innovation** – RPU is committed to identifying creative solutions to meet the needs of our community members, effectively and efficiently by providing innovative infrastructure improvements. Implementation of Distribution Automation is a critical component of these efforts, as automatic electronic reclosers are part of the effort to modernize the grid to make it smarter through the use of cutting-edge technologies, equipment and automation systems that communicate together to deliver reliable and efficient electric power.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – RPU is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike. RPU is preparing for the goals set by the City to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and to ensure that new system upgrades provide grid operators the ability to monitor and respond to system disturbances in a more safe and timely manner.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact is \$275,922.68. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities Electric Capital Account No. 6130000-470655.

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Approved by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form: Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Certifies availability
of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Attachment: Bid Award Recommendation