



LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Suzanne Sherman, City Manager

THRU: Valentino Perez, Public Works Director

DATE: November 21, 2024

RE: Miscellaneous: Disaster recovery debris removal and monitoring services (emergency procurement) – Public Works Department (Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. (Contract 23-0-2022) - \$764,100 and Thompson Consulting Services, LLC (Contract 25-0-2023) - \$138,408).

SUMMARY:

In preparation for potential future emergency disaster situations, the City awarded two separate Request for Proposals, to enter into pre-event contract(s) for Disaster Recovery Debris Removal and Monitoring Services with Ceres Environmental Services, Inc (23-0-2022) and Thompson Consulting Services, LLC (25-0-2023). The contracts for Ceres and Thompson were solicited within federal requirements in order to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

On October 10, 2024, Hurricane Milton impacted the City of Palm Bay. On Sunday, October 13, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, pursuant to Florida Executive Orders 24-208 and 24-124, issued directives to all local governments in the affected counties regarding expedited debris removal and cleanup efforts. These Debris Removal (Category A) activities have been approved by FEMA as activities eligible for reimbursement. In order to maintain compliance with these orders, and FEMA-eligible activities requirements for reimbursement, the City activated the pre-solicited contracts for Debris Removal and Monitoring. This City has operated within the directives and strict guidance issued by the State and Federal governments for Debris Removal. Ceres has been the City's incumbent debris hauler for many years, repeatedly winning competitive solicitations for these services. Ceres hires teams of FEMA-certified subcontractors for the hauling. The equipment must be certified in order to be eligible for reimbursable activities. However, the impact on the state and southeast United States from back-to-back Hurricanes Helene and Milton made it incredibly difficult for Ceres to secure subcontractors for our geographic area. In addition, our contracted rate schedule was established in 2022 and did not match the market rate across the state or locally, including that of Melbourne and Brevard County. Lastly, the quantity of debris in the City in comparison to other parts of the state was not attractive to subcontractors, as the rates are established per cubic yard – debris hauling of this volume involves driving many miles to fill a

400 CY truck and return to the debris hauling site. To expedite, City Staff located a local hauler and put them in contact with Ceres for them to use as a sub. Ceres was able to certify their equipment and their site to begin hauling efforts. On October 28, 2024, the City began its debris collection efforts. The City is utilizing our debris removal and monitoring contractors to collect and dispose of approximately 45,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris and 5,000 cubic yards of construction debris. The total estimated cost for Ceres Environmental Services, Inc. debris collection is \$764,100, (45,000 CY at \$14.98 vegetative debris is \$674,100, and 5,000 CY at \$18 construction and demolition debris is \$90,000). The total estimated cost for Thompson Consulting Services, LLC for the debris monitoring is \$138,408. In addition, City staff and equipment have been mobilized to collect in quadrants of the City to add to Ceres efforts. Proper documentation in accordance with the rigorous federal guidelines will also allow the City staff and equipment efforts to be eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

Republic Services is the City's contracted solid waste disposal vendor. Once the Governor issued the executive orders that made Brevard County eligible for Category A debris hauling, Republic could not pick up the yard waste for the City and maintain the City's eligibility for FEMA reimbursement. Although it is difficult to distinguish storm-generated yard waste from normal yard waste, the City notifies Republic whenever Ceres or the City's team completes Category A debris pickup in an area and puts them on notice to resume normal yard waste collection.

Funding to cover the costs of the above-referenced emergency expenditures will come from the General Fund's Stabilization Fund per the City of Palm Bay's Fund Balance Policy, Resolution 2021-03, Section V. Stabilization Funds. Per the Policy, the City will maintain a permanent Emergency Contingency Fund with an annual balance of 2.0% to 4.0% to be used to cover costs associated with emergencies occurring within City limits. Funding cannot be utilized for a different purpose. For Fiscal Year 2025, City Council approved to set aside a total of 4.0%, or \$2,025,395, in the Stabilization Fund.

Pursuant to section 38.08(B)(2) of the City Code of Ordinances, ***Council approval for purchases or award of contracts for items delineated as Exclusions per § 38.07(B) equal to or greater than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) total expenditure for the initial contract term;*** this emergency expenditure is being presented for Council approval.

REQUESTING DEPARTMENTS:

Public Works

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total fiscal impact of the emergency expenditures is \$902,508; debris collection services \$764,100 and monitoring services \$138,408. Funding will be transferred from the General Fund's Stabilization Fund 001-0000-392-4001 to the Disaster Preparedness-Hurricane Milton project (25EM01) in account 001-9010-519-5227.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to approve emergency expenditure for Ceres Environmental Services, Inc and Thompson Consulting Services, LLC in accordance with Disaster Recovery Debris Removal and Monitoring Services in accordance with contracts 23-0-2022 and 25-0-2023.

ATTACHMENTS: