

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Tim Carroll, Councilman - District 5
SECONDER: Eric Howard, Councilman - District 4
AYES: Harden, Tooley, McIntyre, Howard, Carroll, Gibbs

Consideration of bids for one, 3/4 ton Crew Cab Truck for the Public Works Department (Bid No. 4-25).

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Tim Carroll, Councilman - District 5
SECONDER: Eric Howard, Councilman - District 4
AYES: Harden, Tooley, McIntyre, Howard, Carroll, Gibbs

Consideration of a request to approve a new Contract for Public Transit Services for the City of Valdosta.

Larry Ogden, Public Works Director, stated that on March 17, 2021, the Mayor and Council approved a Contract with River North Transit, LLC, a subsidiary of VIA Transportation (New York, NY), to provide transit services for the City of Valdosta. Valdosta on Demand (VOD) was launched on April 27, 2021 with an option to renew the Contract for three additional one-year terms with this one being the last year. The Contract has ended and we are currently operating with a Contract Extension. The last day of the current Contract Extension, which totals eight months, will be March 31, 2025. The reason for the Contract Extension is because the City of Valdosta received a notification from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) on Friday, March 8, 2024, stating that our Request for Qualification (RFQ) is only allowed for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Services and not for Non-A&E Service Procurements. As a result, it was determined that we had to re-advertise using the Request for Proposal (RFP) competitive bid process for our on-going solicitation for a Third-Party Operator (TPO). The RFP's were distributed by the City of Valdosta's Purchasing Agent and three companies, River North Transit, LLC., HBSS Connect Corp., and RMS, Inc., responded. The responses were reviewed and assigned scores by a Committee consisting of City Manager Richard Hardy, Assistant City Manager Catherine Ammons, Finance Director Chuck Dinkins, Councilman Andy Gibbs, Councilwoman Sandra Tooley, and Public Works Director Larry Ogden. The Committee scored the Proposals which was done in compliance with GDOT recommendations for the 5307 Funding Grant. Four attributes were scored by the Committee which included the following: (1) High Advantageous, (2) Advantageous, (3) Disadvantageous, and (4) Unacceptable. The scores were submitted to the City of Valdosta Purchasing Agent who then totaled the scores. At the end of the scoring period, River North Transit, LLC ("River North"), a subsidiary of Via Transportation, was scored as the highest. River North Transit, LLC was selected and agreed upon by the Committee to continue to provide transit services for the City of Valdosta. The City was approved for FTA 5307 Grant and congressionally- directed spending to fund the Transit Program for FY25. The City's match is included in the proposed FY25 Budget. Larry Ogden, Public Works Director, recommended that Council approve a new Contract with River North Transit, LLC ("River North"), a wholly owned subsidiary of VIA Transportation, Inc. ("VIA"), for public transit services for the City of Valdosta.