



**MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council  
**THRU:** Susan Norton, Chief of Staff  
**FROM:** Keith Macedo, IT Director  
**DATE:**  
**SUBJECT:** **Staff recommends approval of a fiber conduit and fiber optic construction agreement and a bid waiver with OzarksGo, LLC.**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of a fiber conduit and fiber optic construction agreement and a bid waiver with OzarksGo, LLC.

**BACKGROUND:**

Fiber optic cabling is the preferred method to support the City's current and future technology needs to connect city facilities and critical technology infrastructure. Over the last several years, City staff have installed empty fiber conduits in conjunction with city infrastructure projects such as trails, sidewalks, street improvements, and parks. The intent of the conduit was a "dig once" concept where the city leveraged existing projects to proactively install conduits for future technology needs. The city developed a fiber conduit concept map in 2019 that staff references to prioritize fiber conduit projects with the long-term goal to serve major city facilities, trails, parks, traffic signals, and water/ wastewater locations. This fiber concept map is the guiding document that helps staff decide if placing conduit in a specific city project provides an adequate return on investment. To date, the city has installed short sections of fiber conduit but has not installed fiber optic cable into the conduit (current empty conduit).

**DISCUSSION:**

City Information Technology (IT) staff worked with the City Attorney's Office, Purchasing, Engineering, and to develop the attached agreement and scope of work for OzarksGo to install 20,000 feet of City multi-duct conduit and provide approximately 39,000 feet of fiber optic cable. Once complete, the conduit and fiber will connect the majority of city facilities together with fiber optic cable, which will improve network performance and support improved resiliency of the City's technology infrastructure (including improved backups). The 20,000 feet of multi-duct conduit also provides an empty conduit for future growth and the opportunity for the city to lease the empty conduit to other internet service providers. The city hopes the empty conduit will allow local internet service providers to leverage portions of the conduit to help reduce the cost of expanding broadband services in Fayetteville along the path of the proposed conduit.

City staff is requesting a bid waiver to be approved by OzarksGO to install the conduit and fiber optic cable. The city-provided conduit will be owned by the city and Resolution 144-22 approved by City Council on June 21, 2022, will govern the installation and use of the fiber optic cable including providing 10 strands of fiber for city use.

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Mailing address:

113 W. Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

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City Engineering reviewed the price proposal from OzarksGo and compared the price to recent bids for fiber optic conduit. Engineering received bids ranging from \$15 to \$96 per foot for conduit only. The OzarksGo agreement averages \$17 per foot for both conduit and fiber optic cable. Due to the value of the OzarksGo agreement when compared to recent bids, and the ability to leverage Resolution 144-22 to obtain 10 strands of managed fiber optic cable for the City's use, City staff is recommending the approval of a bid waiver and agreement with OzarksGO.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

The attached agreement is divided into 3 projects for a total of \$576,000.00.

- **West Ave Parking Deck to City Hall, City Hall to 15<sup>th</sup> St- FY 2023- \$200,000.00**
  1. West Avenue Parking Deck
  2. Traffic signal at West Ave and Dickson St
  3. Lower Ramble network cabinet on West Ave
  4. Upper Ramble network cabinet on West Ave
  5. City Hall
  6. Traffic signal at South School Ave and Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
  7. Walker Park
- **Happy Hollow Campus to 15<sup>th</sup> St-FY 2023- \$242,000.00**
  1. Traffic signal at South School Ave and 15<sup>th</sup> St
  2. Traffic signal at 15<sup>th</sup> St and South Morningside Dr
  3. Traffic signal at 15<sup>th</sup> St and S Curtis Ave
  4. Fire Station #3
  5. Happy Hollow Campus (RTC, Parks, Transportation, Fleet)
- **Happy Hollow Campus to Airport Data Center-FY 2024- \$134,000.00**
  1. Happy Hollow Campus (RTC, Parks, Transportation, Fleet)
  2. Animal Shelter
  3. Water and Sewer Operations
  4. Primary Data Center at Airport

The proposed agreement is a not to exceed cost price and will be invoiced per project listed above. The West Ave to 15<sup>th</sup> St and Happy Hollow to 15<sup>th</sup> St projects are planned for FY 2023 with the Happy Hollow to Airport planned for FY 2024. Funding is available within the Fiber Optic Cable CIP project. Per resolution 144-22, OzarksGo is responsible for the maintenance, line locates, and repair of the fiber optic cable which is a cost avoidance over a city staff managed fiber optic cable network. Funding is available within the Sales Tax Fiber Optic CIP project.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Staff Review Form, 2023-1055 BA Ozarks Go Conduit, OzarksGo Agreement, Appendix A - Scope of Work, Appendix B OzarksGo Certificate of Franchise Authority, Insurance Certificate

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