



MEMORANDUM

OCEAT Agenda
Item No. OCEAT.B.
5/5/2015

The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Chairman and Trustees of the Oklahoma City Environmental Assistance Trust

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager/General Manager, OCEAT

Receive survey results from SCS Aquaterra concerning solid waste management service alternatives for consideration in the upcoming solid waste collection contractor selection process.

Background

On December 30, 2014, the Oklahoma City Environmental Assistance Trust (OCEAT) approved a professional services agreement with SCS Aquaterra (SCS) to provide solid waste management consultant services (C159019), estimated cost \$813,512. SCS has evaluated the City's current solid waste collection services and has received input from the private companies that provide solid waste collection services in our region.

SCS is seeking input from OCEAT regarding the following:

Bag Set Outs. Currently, in the urban areas of the City, residents can set out an unlimited number of bags if their second cart is full. The rural areas have no separate bag pickup, and all waste, with the exception of bulky waste, is required to be containerized. Limiting or completely eliminating the bag set outs will improve collection efficiency, reduce costs and reduce worker's compensation claims. The additional yard waste beyond what can be containerized could be collected with the monthly bulky waste pickup or a separate charge could be instituted to account for the additional costs incurred to provide this service.

Recycling Services. The City's current program is referred to as a dual-stream system. Recyclables are set out weekly in 18-gallon bins (Little Blue), and manually sorted at the curb by the collection contractor. Currently the City does not collect corrugated cardboard because it typically will not fit in an 18-gallon bin. The City averages just over 3% recycling (amount of the total waste stream diverted from landfills), which is significantly below national averages. The alternative is to transition to a single-stream recycling program using 96-gallon wheeled carts and automated collection similar to the Big Blue Carts. A different color may be specified for the recycling container. Typically, with single-stream recycling programs, collection is every other week (EOW), which reduces overall collection costs, fuel consumption, and additional truck traffic. Communities that have converted to single-stream collection have experienced higher customer participation rates, landfill

diversion rates, less litter and generally improved customer satisfaction ratings. With a single-stream system, the City could begin collecting corrugated cardboard materials, which are an increasing component of the waste stream, but are now excluded. Norman, Edmond, and Midwest City, who recently transitioned to single-stream from the dual-stream approach, experienced significant increases in recycling participation and recycling rates. The other issue is whether to exclude glass from the list of materials to be recycled. Glass is a low- to no-value commodity for recyclers and creates operational processing challenges and reduces the value of other recycled materials due to contamination.

Increase Service Area Served by City Resources. The City's Solid Waste Management Division currently collects residential solid waste (household, yard waste, and bulky waste) from approximately 75,400 households. Waste Management collects from approximately 117,500 households, and provides recycling services for the eligible customers in the City (approximately 176,200). SCS's preliminary analysis suggests that the City's current personnel and equipment could be used to collect more homes (up to 8,000 to 12,000 depending on productivity assumptions), reduce contractor collection costs, and reduce overall system costs. Some additional fuel costs would result; however, SCS's preliminary analysis suggests that the reduced contractor costs would significantly outweigh the additional fuel costs the City would incur. The current plan is to issue the request for proposals with new City/Contractor zones identified in addition to the existing collection zones.

OCEAT will incorporate OCEAT's comments into the final Request for Proposals for future OCEAT consideration and approval.

Public Survey Results. SCS, in conjunction with Cole, Hargrave, Snodgrass and Associates, recently conducted a public survey of a cross section of Oklahoma City regarding their views on existing services and the potential service changes being considered. Ninety-three percent of all respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the solid waste services provided by the City. A summary of findings is attached.

Previous Action

Professional Service Agreement with SCS Aquaterra to provide solid waste management consultant services and the performance bond were approved by OCEAT on December 30, 2014 (Item No. OCEAT.A.)

Resolution authorizing staff to negotiate professional services agreement adopted by OCEAT on November 4, 2014 (Item No. OCEAT.C.)

Addendum No. 1 ratified and approved; resolution authorizing negotiation of a contract adopted by OCEAT on September 9, 2014 (Item No. OCEAT.B.)

Request for Proposals to be advertised approved and authorized by OCEAT on July 15, 2014 (Item No. OCEAT.A.)

Source of Funds OCEAT-Environmental Assistance Operations-OCEAT Trust
Operations-Solid Waste Administration-Professional Services
(335-0375-3701100-08010-52040046)

Review Utilities Department

Recommendation: Receive survey results.

Attachment