

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Ordinance. No. 1118-2024

Division of Water

Background/Purpose:

Cleveland Water (CWD) provides service to almost 15,000 commercial / industrial accounts, and service to another 5000 unmetered fire lines. Water used at commercial and industrial sites has the potential to become contaminated by the processes used at the businesses, then flow backward back into CWD's distribution system and create a risk for other users of the water system. Pursuant to Cleveland's codified ordinances and Ohio EPA mandates, Cleveland Water requires the installation, maintenance and annual testing of a backflow prevention device on any service connection that presents an actual or potential backflow hazard to the potable water system. Even some residential accounts with higher risk uses, like lawn irrigation systems, are required to have a backflow prevention device.

The type of device required depends on the degree of hazard involved. This determination is made by Cleveland Water engineers and conforms to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Each backflow device must be tested every year by private plumbers certified in backflow device testing, to make sure they are functioning correctly.

For several years, CWD has used a vendor to assist in managing its backflow records. Plumbers and backflow testers log into the vendor website, perform the test on the backflow device, and in real time enter the results into the vendor website. The vendor system also sends reminder testing notices out to owners and testers ahead of time, and violation notices when tests are not completed on time. Additionally, the software makes sure that the plumbers are up to date on their backflow certifications. Cleveland Water still maintains overall responsibility for the backflow program.

Scope of Work/Commodities/Services:

This ordinance will authorize professional service contract(s) that will provide a backflow prevention device tracking system, which will incorporate a function allowing certified plumbers to submit backflow test results via a secure internet website.

Anticipated Costs and funding source:

The vendor will directly charge the private plumber a fee for each test performed. This fee does not flow through CWD, but is a principal consideration the Division uses in selecting a vendor. Per CWD's rate ordinance, CWD will also charge an additional fee for each test performed, to cover the Division's internal costs to administer the backflow program. For the first year of this new contract, that fee is \$18. per test.

Schedule or Term of Contract:

This contract is intended to last three years, with two one-year options to renew.

CSB Participation

OEO has waived the CSB participation goal for this contract.

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Current Contract(s):

Vendor Company Name	Vendor Address/Contact	Services/Work performed (current contract)	Contract Info
Backflow Solutions, Inc.	12609 S. Laramie Drive Alsip, IL 60803 Doug Eisenhauer	Backflow Data Management Program	PS2024-064 Expires: 03/31/25

CSB Participation on the Current Contract(s):

Goals: 0%; Actual CSB Participation: 0%