

Division of Water

Request for Legislation

This ordinance will authorize the Director of Public Utilities to exercise the first option to renew PS2020-064 with Backflow Solutions, Inc. for an additional one-year period. This contract, previously authorized under Ordinance No. 1004-2019, provides a backflow data management program for the Division of Water.

Background/Purpose:

Water used at commercial and industrial sites has the potential to become contaminated by the processes used at the businesses, then flow backward back in to the distribution system and create a risk for other users of the water system. Pursuant to Cleveland codified ordinances, Cleveland Water requires the installation, testing and maintenance of a backflow prevention device on any service connection that presents either an actual or potential hazard to the potable water system.

The type of device required depends on the degree of hazard involved. This determination is made by Cleveland Water engineers and will be in agreement with the rules and regulations of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).

The backflow prevention device type, installation, testing and maintenance must be approved by Cleveland Water and meet state of Ohio rules and regulations.

Cleveland procured a third party vendor, Backflow Solutions, Inc (BSI), through a competitive process, to manage the records of this program. Each backflow device must be tested every year to make sure they are functioning correctly. Properly certified plumbers and backflow testers log into the BSI website, perform the test on the backflow device, and in real time enter the results into the BSI website. The BSI system also sends reminder testing notices out to owners and testers ahead of time, and violation notices when tests are not completed on time. Cleveland Water still maintains overall responsibility for the backflow program.

Scope of Work/Commodities/Services:

The vendor BSI administers and implements a backflow prevention device-tracking program, allowing licensed plumbing contractors to submit backflow test results via a secure internet website. BSI has performed well on this program; CWD is looking to execute a one-year optional extension with this ordinance.

Justification/Urgency:

The current contract expires on March 31, 2023.

Anticipated Costs and funding source:

BSI charges plumbers / testers a two-part fee per test for using their system: \$9.95. for the administration of the program and website, and \$14, which BSI later remits back to CWD, to cover CWD's administrative costs in managing its part of the backflow program. Plumbers / testers will typically include these fees into the overall costs they will assess the property owners for performing the tests. Otherwise, CWD has no out of pocket expenses associated with this contract.

Schedule or Term of Contract:

The ordinance will allow CWD to exercise the first option to renew PS2020-064 with Backflow Solutions, Inc. for an additional one-year period through March 31, 2024.

Current Contract(s):

Vendor Company Name	Vendor Address	Services/Work performed (current contract)	Contract Info
Backflow Solutions, Inc.	12609 S. Laramie Drive Alsip, IL 60803	Backflow Data Management Program	CT NF2020-064 Expires 03/31/23

CSB Participation on the Current Contract(s):

Goals: 10 %; Actual CSB Participation: 0 %

OEO has waived the CSB participation goal for this contract.

Previous Contract(s):

Vendor Company Name	Vendor Address	Services/Work performed (current contract)	Contract Info
Backflow Solutions, Inc.	12609 S. Laramie Drive Alsip, IL 60803	Backflow Data Management Program	CT NF2013-015 Expired 03/31/20