
Sponsor: Public Health, Workforce Solutions

Meeting Date: 4/26/2022

Title: Contract with Jobs Foundation for Electronic Waste Collection and Recycling

File Number: 2022-166

Background and Rationale:

The Public Health department is recommending approval of a contract between Ramsey County and Jobs Foundation, doing business as (DBA) Tech Dump & Tech Discounts to provide electronic-waste (e-waste) collection services to county residents. Addition of e-waste collection services will advance Ramsey County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection program, which currently does not provide e-waste collection services to residents. This is part of the broader HHW redesign project Public Health brought to the board in January 2021.

Through a contract with Tech Dump & Tech Discounts, Ramsey County will increase availability of e-waste collection services to county residents and seeks to test different methods to engage residents and provide collection opportunities that will be used in the HHW System redesign. The future e-waste collection system will build public-private partnerships to increase the opportunity for residents to recycle e-waste while addressing equity and economic issues.

E-waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams, and includes televisions, computers, computer display monitors, computer accessories, VCRs and tablets. Currently, Ramsey County does not collect e-waste at its HHW sites but promotes private collection options to residents. E-waste that is not recycled is often placed in the trash, which is illegal. According to a 2014 waste composition study at the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Center, 1.4% of residential waste was electronics, which for Ramsey County would be over 4.4 million pounds a year.

The Minnesota Electronics Recycling Act, signed into law in May 2007, was intended to require manufacturers to bear the full cost of managing discarded e-waste. At present, the cost of e-waste management is not fully borne by manufacturers. Local governments and retailers that collect e-waste either subsidize costs indirectly or directly charge residents for all or a portion of the waste management costs. The e-waste law hasn't worked well for Ramsey County residents because of the fees charged by private and public collection entities. Current options for properly disposing e-waste for county residents include: city clean-up events (typical charge of \$8- \$10 per item); other county HHW collection through a reciprocal use agreement; private retail stores, e-waste recycling companies and transfer stations that accept e-waste for a fee.

On September 29, 2021, Ramsey County released a competitive solicitation, PH5550000023084 E-Waste, for electronic waste collection and recycling. Below is a competitive solicitation summary:

Request for Proposals (RFP Title): E-Waste

RFP Release Date: September 29, 2021

RFP Response Date: October 21, 2021

Respondents: Dynamic Lifecycle

PCs for People

Jobs Foundation DBA Tech Dump & Tech Discounts

Proposal Evaluation Committee: Environmental Health Supervisors

Environmental Health Specialists
Director of Workforce Solutions

RFP Evaluation Criteria:	Contractor Qualifications
	Key Personnel Qualifications
	Project Understanding and Approach
	Cost
Contractor Recommended:	Jobs Foundation DBA Tech Dump & Tech Discounts

The evaluation team evaluated the proposals based on the criteria identified in the solicitation and is recommending Jobs Foundation DBA Tech Dump & Tech Discounts as the contractor to provide E-Waste Services. The full term of the Agreement is May 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 with the option to be renewed for up to three additional one year periods.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the selection of and the contract with Jobs Foundation, doing business as (DBA) Tech Dump & Tech Discounts, 860 Vandalia Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114, for electronic waste collection and recycling for the period May 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, and may be renewed for up to three additional one year period(s) through December 31, 2025, as a rate setting agreement.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the contract.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the contract in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

 Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board