

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** September 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Consider a professional services agreement for engineering services with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$56,930 for the Risk and Resilience Assessment Project (UT2006).
PRESENTER: Caroline Waggoner, Director of Public Works

SUMMARY:

Council is being asked to consider a professional services agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for engineering services for preparation of the Emergency Response Plan as required to comply with America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

On October 23, 2018, America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law. AWIA Section 2013 requires community (drinking) water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk assessments and emergency response plans. The law specifies the components that the Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRA) and Emergency Response Plans (ERP) must address, and establishes deadlines by which water systems must certify completion to the EPA. For North Richland Hills and other communities with populations served between 50,000 and 99,999 people, the deadlines are December 31, 2020 and June 30, 2021, respectively.

The intent of the requirement is to ensure that drinking water utilities are prepared to protect and maintain this vital infrastructure by evaluating the vulnerabilities, threats, and consequences from potential hazards, including:

- Natural hazards and malevolent acts (including cybersecurity)
- Resilience of water facility infrastructure
- Monitoring practices
- Chemical storage and handling
- Operation and maintenance

After completion of the Risk and Resiliency Assessment, utilities must develop an Emergency Response Plan. Once complete, both documents must be updated every five years.

This contract is for the ERP portion of the requirement only, with a separate contract to be considered for the RRA. Both contracts with Freese & Nichols are structured with a "not to exceed" fee, allowing for savings to be realized with increased involvement by City



staff during the assessment and plan development. Sufficient funding for both items are included in the FY 2019/2020 Adopted Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a professional services agreement with Freese and Nichols, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$56,930 for development of an Emergency Response Plan as part of the Utility Risk and Resilience Project (UT2006).