



## CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** The Office of the City Manager   **DATE:** December 13, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Approve purchase agreement with Atlas Utility Supply Company to purchase Badger water meters and water meter reading units in an amount up to \$400,000 as a sole source purchase.  
**PRESENTER:** Boe Blankenship, Assistant Director of Public Works

### **SUMMARY:**

Staff is requesting City Council authorization to purchase Badger water meters and water meter reading units from Atlas Utility Supply Company, a sole source distributor located in Fort Worth, for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

Since 1992, the City has purchased Badger water meters and water meter reading units. There are approximately 23,000 Badger units throughout the city. The Badger meter and reading unit is one of the most accurate and dependable options on the market.

Among the thousands of water accounts throughout the city, there are several different configurations of meters and reading equipment. In some cases, the meter and register/encoder are built together as a single component. In other cases, the meter and register/encoder are connected upon installation in the field but can be separated. The benefit of the second setup is that encoders can be replaced without disrupting water flow to the customer. In all cases, an endpoint or transponder is needed to transmit data from the encoder to the city's truck-mounted reading equipment. The Badger meter reading units are the only type compatible with our existing meter reading system. The city uses a Badger reading device that is placed in a vehicle that is driven on all city streets. As the vehicle travels along the street, the reading device receives data from the transponder located on the water meter for customer's usage. Once the meters are read, the data is then transferred to a central computer using Badger software.

The manufacturers of Badger meters have exclusive designated territories for distribution of their meters. Atlas Utility Supply is the only authorized distributor for the territory covering North Richland Hills. Atlas has always provided good service, met all specifications and made deliveries on time. Their inventory is adequate to serve the city.

Attached is the sole source letter and sole source purchasing prices for the Badger water meter reading units from Atlas Utility Supply Company. Funding for this purchase is available in the FY 2020/2021 Adopted Budget within the Telemetric Water Meter Annual Maintenance project (UT2103). This project allows us to continue replacing older meter



units that have exceeded their typical lifespan and install new meter taps for developments.

Anticipated purchases for this fiscal year include approximately 550 water meters and 770 registers (encoders) and endpoints purchased by unit price in different configurations of equipment. The individual items quoted by Atlas in various sizes cover all anticipated needs for meter and reading equipment placement and replacement. All items will be purchased on an as needed basis and within the budgeted amount.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve purchase agreement with Atlas Utility Supply Company to purchase Badger water meters and water meter reading units in an amount up to \$400,000 as a sole source purchase.