

MOTION NO. M2017-23

On-Call Contract with Economic Consultants Oregon, LTD dba ECONorthwest for Financial Consulting Services

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:
Operations and Administration Committee	03/02/2017	Final Action	Brian McCartan, Executive Director FIT Stephanie Ball, Financial Planner

PROPOSED ACTION

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a two-year on-call contract with three one-year options with Economic Consultants Oregon, LTD dba ECONorthwest to provide financial consulting services in the amount of \$404,770, plus a 10% contingency of \$40,477, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$445,247, contingent upon resolution of any protest received.

KEY FEATURES SUMMARY

- This action executes a contract with ECONorthwest to provide financial consulting services for use in financial planning, budgeting, and as needed to provide effective financial planning and analysis. The consultant contract scope of services includes specific forecasts as well as ad hoc services. ECONorthwest will provide some or all of the following services:
 - Inflation forecasting, including building costs (CCI), Consumer Price Inflation (Seattle CPI), and right-of-way.
 - Tax base annual growth forecasting for Sound Transit to project local tax collections (sales, MVET, rental car tax, real estate).
- Under this contract, ad-hoc modeling services may be provided on an on-call basis related to the above items, including:
 - Economic analysis and studies related to employment impacts of Sound Transit work, materials/construction cost inflation, cost-benefit studies, and other economic analysis related to capital construction and transit operations.
 - Services related to tax base growth forecasts.
- All ad-hoc tasks will be performed based on written task orders authorized by Sound Transit.
- ECONorthwest is one of three firms selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for financial consulting services. Two additional contract requests are being brought to the committee for consideration: Porter & Associates, Inc. (Motion No. M2017-22 and Parsons Brinkerhoff, Inc. (Motion No. M2017-24).

BACKGROUND

Since 1997, Sound Transit has used consultants for transit and financial planning, and this approach has proved very effective at providing the agency focused, expert consultant services in key areas. Consultants currently provide inflation forecasts, tax base annual growth forecasts, and assistance with financial planning and modeling.

Sound Transit issued a Request for Proposal (RFP NO. RTA/RP 0210-16) for Financial Consulting Services to provide on-call consultant services for financial planning, budgeting, forecasting, and ad-hoc modeling. Included in these services are inflation forecasting; tax base annual growth forecasting to project local tax collections; financial planning and modeling services to assist in maintenance of Sound Transit's 25-year financial plan; and developing the total cost of ownership estimating tools and process.

Sound Transit received and evaluated six proposals. ECONorthwest and two other firms (Porter & Associates, Inc. and Parsons Brinkerhoff, Inc.) best met the evaluation criteria, offered the best value, and are in the best interest to Sound Transit.

FISCAL INFORMATION

The proposed action will be funded from the services category within the Finance and Information Technology department's annual operating budget. The services category budget is \$17,281,428. The estimated current-year spending for this contract is \$48,978, which is within the agency's 2017 budget authority. After approval of this action, the remaining annual budget will be used to fund other department expenditures anticipated in the 2017 annual budget.

Funding for the additional years of the contract will be included in future annual budget requests.

Finance and Information Technology (in thousands)

	2017 Annual Operating Budget	Actuals to Date	This Action	Actuals to Date Plus Action	Remaining Annual Operating Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$21,394	\$1,021	\$0	\$1,021	\$20,373
Services	17,281	1,020	49	1,069	16,212
Materials and Supplies	1,582	57	0	57	1,524
Utilities	953	21	0	21	931
Insurance	7,482	494	0	494	6,987
Miscellaneous	491	45	0	45	446
Interest Expense	18	1	0	1	17
Leases and Rentals	415	27	0	27	389
Total Annual Operating Budget	\$49,616	\$2,686	\$49	\$2,735	\$46,881

	Prior Year Spending	Forecast 2017 Spending	Future Expenditures	Total
Contract Spending Plan				
ECONorthwest	\$0	\$49	\$396	\$445

Contract Detail TBD	Board Approved Contract Value	Contract Actuals to Date	Proposed Action	Proposed Board Approved Contract Value
ECONorthwest	\$0	\$0	\$405	\$405
Contingency			40	40
Contract Amount - Total	\$0	\$0	\$445	\$445
Percent Contingency	0%	0%	10%	10%

Notes: actuals to date as of January 31, 2017

SMALL BUSINESS/ DBE PARTICIPATION

Sound Transit determined that there were few Small Business and DBE subcontracting opportunities based upon the work described in this contract, so Small Business/DBE goals were not established.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Not applicable to this action.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A one-month delay will have a significant impact as the current financial services contract ends on March 31, 2017. Due to the passage of Sound Transit 3, there is a high need for modeling assistance.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Jl 2/17/2017

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 2/24/2017

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A motion of the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a two-year on-call contract with three one-year options with Economic Consultants Oregon, LTD dba ECONorthwest to provide financial consulting services in the amount of \$404,770, plus a 10% contingency of \$40,477, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$445,247, contingent upon resolution of any protest received.

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Under this contract, ad-hoc modeling services may be provided on an on-call basis related to the above items, including: economic analysis and studies related to employment impacts of Sound Transit work, materials/construction cost inflation, cost-benefit studies, and other economic analysis related to capital construction and transit operations; and services related to tax base growth forecasts.

MOTION:

It is hereby moved by the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a two-year on-call contract with three one-year options with Economic Consultants Oregon, LTD dba ECONorthwest to provide financial consulting services in the amount of \$404,770, plus a 10% contingency of \$40,477, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$445,247, contingent upon resolution of any protest received.

APPROVED by the Operations and Administration Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on March 2, 2017.



Paul Roberts
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator