



CITY OF RAPID CITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Allender and Common Council
FROM: Wade Nyberg *WEN*
DATE: March 15, 2017
RE: Paratransit Vehicle Bid

BACKGROUND

Rapid Transit went out for bids for 4 new buses, with the trade-in of 3 used buses. The ADA accessible buses with lifts are to be used for the Dial-a-Ride paratransit program. Two bids were received: Telin Transportation Group @ \$327,604 and Masters Transportation @ \$311,388. Those numbers reflect the trade-in allowance.

The apparent low bidder, Masters, had several issues with its bid. The buses did not meet several specifications, including the following:

1. *Spare tires and wheels*: Bid specifications were for sixteen (16) all-season tires mounted on OEM wheels. Bidder only included four (4) all-season tires mounted on OEM wheels which does not meet specifications.
2. *Stainless steel entry door frame*: Bid specifications were for a stainless steel entry door frame. Bidder specified a galvanized steel door frame which does not meet bid specifications.
3. *Lift package*: Bid specifications were for a 1,000 lb. lift capacity. Bidder specified an 800 lb. lift capacity which does not meet bid specifications.
4. *Passenger seat fabric level*: Bid specifications were for seat trim Level 4. Bidder specified seat trim Level 1, which does not meet bid specifications. (These are industry-standard levels, with specific meaning to transportation companies.)

Masters indicated to RTS Manager Rich Sagen that it was willing to change its bid to correct the deficiencies noted. However, modification of bids after opening is not allowed by law.

In addition, RTS specified that time of delivery was a critical component of the bid and that the vehicles were to be delivered within 120 days of award. Masters Transportation cannot guarantee delivery within the required timeframe. It does not have the chassis for the buses in stock. The chassis needs to be ordered from the manufacturer (Ford), and it generally takes 8-12 weeks for delivery. The buses are then built on the chassis frame. Build time typically takes 90-120 days. (Masters indicated it could build the buses within 120 days of receiving the chassis.) Telin Transportation has the required chassis in stock.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the bid be awarded to Telin Transportation Group, as the apparent low bid of Masters Transportation does not meet bid specifications.