

Council Agenda Item 26-0323R



MEETING DATE: 4/27/2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO WSB LLC FOR MATERIAL TESTING SERVICES FOR 2026 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS NOT TO EXCEED \$51,220.00

SUBMITTED BY: Jon Maruska, Senior Engineering Specialist, Engineering Division of Public Works and Utilities

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BACKGROUND: Duluth is undertaking an initiative to replace approximately 1,250 lead water services during the 2026 construction season. Replacing lead water services requires excavation and surface restoration. Material testing and documentation of the quality of aggregates, measurement of soil compaction, and testing of concrete prior to placement is a necessary component of utility construction projects. Material testing ensures that aggregate base materials provide adequate support and drainage for roadways, that soils are effectively compacted to prevent settlement or shifting of the ground, and that concrete meets minimum strength requirements. Material testing also ensures compliance with engineering and regulatory specifications, protects the new water line and roadways from damage caused by insufficient aggregates and compaction, and provides quality assurance that the work will perform reliably over time.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

- Engineer’s Estimate \$50,000.00
- As-bid Cost \$51,220.00
- PFA Reimbursable Costs \$51,220.00
- City Utility Costs \$ 0.00

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve – This action allows utilization of PFA funding to properly test materials and compaction as part of construction during the 2026 lead service line replacement projects, ensuring compliance with construction specifications and resulting in a high-quality end product.
- 2) Do Not Approve – This action will result in no testing for materials and compaction for the 2026 lead service line replacement projects, as specifications and common engineering practices would require.

NECESSARY ACTION: Approve award of contract.

ATTACHMENTS: None.