

City Council Staff Report

Council Meeting Date

- April 28, 2026

Subject

- Amendment for Contract #92600338 - Lead Service Line Predictive Modeling Investigations

Staff Resource(s)

- Bill Hart, Water Resources Director & Brenna Cook, Compliance Manager

Action Requested

- Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend current contract # 92600338 with Chonzie, Inc. for predictive modeling service line inventory with the Water Resources Department from \$140,200.00 to add a fuel surcharge of \$8,782.04. The total contract amount will not exceed \$148,982.04.

Background

- Water Resources is required to build a water service line inventory per US EPA & NC Department of Environment Quality (NCDEQ) regulations.
- Water Resources service line inventory currently has approximately 37,000 service lines classified as unknown sites, which must be determined by October 2027.
- Water Resources is currently under contract with VODA.ai to provide predictive modeling services to help meet the service line inventory deadline requirements.
- Currently the predictive modeling process requires 385 locations to be investigated to supply the predictive modeling software data to determine next steps in the inventory process.
- Chonzie, Inc. was selected to perform the service line inspections required for the project after Water Resources performed the Informal Construction Bid process.
- Due to a 53% increase in fuel prices since the bidding process, a fuel surcharge is being added to the contract.
- The contractor will be required to provide fuel receipts to track cost during the project.

Vendor Outreach Efforts:

- Vendor outreach was performed during the original outreach process and it followed the City of Asheville Vendor outreach requirements.
- A search for utilities contractors was performed on the city's vendor list, NCDOT DBE list and NC HUB lists. All vendors were emailed from the list.
- The Informal Construction Bid was posted on the City website and NC DOA HUB websites.

- The cost of the amendment remains below the next lowest responsible bid received during the outreach process.

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- A Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- Infrastructure & Environment

Committee(s):

- NA

Pro(s)

- This project is aligned with the City and the Water Resources Department goal of continued investment and improvement of the City's water system, in order to provide safe and reliable service.
- The inventory project will reduce the amount of unknown service line material throughout the City's water distribution system.
- The project will also help determine future funding needs to meet the Lead and Copper Rule Improvement (LCRI) regulations posed by the USEPA.

Con(s)

- None

Fiscal Impact

- Funding for this contract was budgeted and is available in the Water Resources Capital Projects Fund.

Suggested Motion

- Motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend current contract # 92600338 with Chonzie, Inc. for predictive modeling service line inventory with the Water Resources Department from \$140,200.00 to add a fuel surcharge of \$8,782.04. The total contract amount will not exceed \$148,982.04.

Attachment(s)

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-____

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the current contract with Chonzie, Inc. for predictive modeling service line inventory with the Water Resources Department

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. sec. 160A-312, the City of Asheville has authority to operate a public enterprise, including a water supply and distribution system; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. sec. 160A-20.1, the City of Asheville may enter into contracts with private entities to carry out any public purpose the City is authorized to engage in; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S. sec. 143-131, informal construction contracts, the City of Asheville performed the required contractor outreach following the City's Terms and Conditions: and

Whereas, Chonzie, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder and will ensure timely completion of the predictive modeling investigations needed to help move the water service line inventory to next steps in the completion of the required USEPA service line inventory;

Whereas, an amendment for the surcharge of \$8,783.14 for fuel is needed to complete the project due to a fifty-three percent (53%) increase in fuel costs since the informal bid response;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that:

The City Manager, on behalf of the City of Asheville, is hereby authorized to amend current contract # 92600338 with Chonzie, Inc. for predictive modeling service line inventory with the Water Resources Department from \$140,200.00 to add a fuel surcharge of \$8,782.04. The total contract amount will not exceed \$148,982.04.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of April, 2026.

Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

Brad Branham, City Attorney

Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk