



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to authorize the County Manager to enter into a standard service contract in the amount of \$223,703 with Taplin Group, LLC (RFP 26-007) to provide Manhole and Sewer Line Inspection Services for the Utilities Division’s sewer collection system. The initial term of the contract begins once approved with the option to renew it by the County for four (4) successive one (1) year periods, under the same terms and conditions.

Background/Justification

The purpose and intent of this contract is to inspect and assess approximately 3,100 manholes and appurtenances for cracks, corrosion, roots, flow restriction, inflow & intrusion, and any such blockages that would prevent flow of the sewer system. The contractor produces an individual manhole report for each structure inspected, digital photograph(s) documenting issues with each structure, and an electronic copy of all data collected. The Contractor ensures that all manholes are labeled and completes GPS of any new manholes and adds to the sewer database for mapping purposes. High-priority line inspections are required by Permit WQCS00038 to be completed semi-annually. This contract will ensure these requirements are completed and a report is on file to ensure compliance.

On August 12, 2025, Durham County issued a Request for Proposal (RFP 26-007). The RFP was mailed to interested vendors, advertised in local newspapers, and published on the Durham County website. Nine (9) proposals were received on September 16, 2025. The proposal review team determined that the Taplin Group, LLC proposal offered the best value and met the proposal requirements. In review of the Small Business participation for this project, there were no participation goals achieved because Taplin Group, LLC will be utilizing their own workforce to perform these services.

Policy Impact

This action is in accordance with Durham County Strategic Plan: “Sustainable Infrastructure & Environment,” as this contract will ensure compliance with Permit WQCS00038.

Procurement Background

Type of purchase

- ☐ Goods
- ☒ Services
- ☐ Architect, Engineer or Surveyor Services
- ☐ Construction and Repair

Did this request for purchase go through a bid process? Yes ☒ No ☐

Goods: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$90,000

Services: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if $>$ \$40,000

Construction/Repair work: Bids required if \geq \$30,000, BOCC approval if \geq \$500,000

If yes, attach a copy of bid tab and the minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) compliance review form provided by the Purchasing Division.



If no, why?

- ☐ Sole source exemption
- ☐ Cooperative purchasing program exemption
- ☐ State and federal contract exemption
- ☐ Contract is an amendment to an existing contract
- ☐ Other (please explain)

If exempted from bidding, has this request been reviewed and approved by the Purchasing Division in the agenda Legistar system? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, why?

Fiscal Impact

The services for this contract will be funded by the Sewer Utility Enterprise Fund.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board authorize the County Manager to enter into a standard service contract in the amount of \$223,703 with Taplin Group, LLC for Manhole and Sewer Line Inspection Services for the Utilities Division’s sewer collection system.