



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: April 19, 2022

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Charles J. Berry, Utility Director
c_berry@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6490(22) Authorizing Appropriations for the Purchase of an Insulator Wash Trailer and Medium Voltage Electrical Switches

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6490(22) (attached) authorizing the supplemental appropriations of \$400,000 for the purchase of an insulator wash trailer and medium voltage electrical switches.

Background:

Utility Department Staff are presenting two items for the Lompoc City Council consideration on behalf of the Electric Utility Division. The first, a trailer-mounted wash apparatus for the purpose of cleaning energized electrical insulators. This is mission-critical equipment that enables efficient maintenance of the distribution system while simultaneously avoiding the inconvenience to customers and the loss of revenue due to planned and unplanned electrical outages. The second, pole-mounted and pad-mounted switches, which are used throughout the distribution system for the purpose of isolating and sectionalizing various segments of line. The use of switches facilitates quick restoration and operational flexibility during normal and emergency conditions.

Discussion:

Trailer-Mounted Wash Apparatus

The Electric Utility Division has a 1985 model year Altec wash trailer. This unit was put into service January 1985 and has subsequently been taken out of service as of December 2021. Emission standards in California are regulated by the Air Resources Board (ARB) and have become increasingly stringent since this unit was put into service. The existing power plant is Tier 0 rated; however, current day emission standards require Tier IV to be in compliance with ARB regulations.

Staff explored retrofitting the existing unit; however, was consequently advised by the manufacturer a retrofit with a new Tier IV power plant is not possible due to variability in

sizes and configurations of the power plant and the equipment it drives. Therefore, with the existing power plant no longer in compliance and a retrofit deemed not viable, ARB regulations mandate this unit is to be taken out of service and deemed non-operational. As a result, the Utility Department must now request appropriations for the purchase of a new unit at an estimated price of \$200,000. This purchase is un-programmed in the existing fiscal year budget.

Pole-Mounted and Pad-Mounted Switches

Prudent electric utility management includes maintaining sufficient stock of high-value items such as pole-mounted and pad-mounted switches to respond to planned and emergency work. Due to disruptions in the supply chain, high-value items are difficult to procure, with extraordinary cost increases and protracted timelines for delivery. In response to these externalities, staff is requesting supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$200,000 to replenish and build stock of these items as needed.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no impact to the City's General Fund due to the adoption of Resolution No. 6490(22) authorizing appropriations for the purchase of an insulator wash trailer and medium voltage electrical switches on behalf of the Electric Utility Division. Funds will come exclusively from Electric customer revenues and Electric fund balance reserves.

Conclusion:

The Electric Utility Division adds great value to the community by providing competitive, cost-effective rates while serving safe, reliable electricity. Maintenance of the distribution system is a component of prudent utility management. The unique nature of this enterprise requires the purchase of highly specialized equipment and materials. The purchase of this equipment and materials will allow the Electric Utility Division to continue providing safe and reliable electricity to its customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles J. Berry, Utility Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 6490(22)