

Recommendation re: Recommendation to Award RFP #2341 to TCS International, Inc. for Parking Guidance System for the Main Street and Heritage Garages

The City of Lakeland currently owns three parking garages and jointly operates the Heritage Street Garage with private partners. There are a total of 537 publicly-available parking spaces within these garages. The City also owns and operates eight surface parking lots with approximately 300 spaces and over 500 on-street parking spaces. Visitors to Downtown have expressed difficulty in finding on-street parking. As confirmed by the City's recent Downtown Parking Assessment, the majority of publicly-available spaces in Downtown are off-street, but visitors are not aware of their availability and choose to park on-street. Consequently, immediate on-street parking within the same block is a scarce resource. The City seeks to make it easier for drivers to find parking in the Main Street Garage and Heritage Garage by installing variable message signs which display the number of available spaces in each garage.

The City's Request for Proposal (RFP) received a total of five submittals. Three respondents were invited to present to the selection committee on January 16, 2024. They were evaluated based on management team approach and availability, project approach and methods, and the respondent's relevant experience.

After interviewing the top three responsive respondents, TCS International, Parking Guidance Systems, and TKH Group/Park Assist, TCS International, Inc. received the highest overall score. The benefits of selecting this respondent included:

- Single-space occupancy sensors rather than multi-space sensors.
- Local service and support
- Access to multiple types of sensors and configurations for future expansion opportunities
- No ongoing software subscription fees
- Domestically manufactured equipment

The proposed Main Street Garage system uses bi-directional ultrasonic sensors with a full matrix color LED sign at each entrance to display the number of available parking spaces or other messaging (i.e. Event Parking or Garage Closed). The selection committee determined this to be the most appropriate solution given the physical layout and size of the Main Street Garage.

The system proposed for the Heritage Garage includes single-space ultrasonic sensors at the City-owned spaces on levels A and B, supplemented with bi-directional ultrasonic sensors located at each entrance/exit point to the garage. The single-space sensors have an LED light to indicate to the driver whether spaces along the aisle are empty, indicated by a green light, or occupied, indicated by a red light. There are other color options available to denote ADA accessible spaces, EV charging spaces, or other exclusive-use spaces. Should the City decide to expand the system to other locations, the respondent offers a number of other types of sensors and configuration options.

	Parking Guidance Systems, LLC	TCS International	TKH Group/ Park Assist
Main St. Garage Equipment and Signs, Furnished and Installed	\$86,550.00	\$65,793.00	\$59,641.92
Heritage Garage Equipment and Signs, Furnished and Installed	\$205,000.00	\$159,672.00	\$147,264.09
Software One-Time Cost	\$16,500.00	\$10,760.00	\$0.00
Software Subscriptions/Fees over a Four-Year Period	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
One-Year Hardware and Equipment Warranty	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$314,550.00	\$236,225.00	\$212,906.01

The City's Purchasing Division published a Notice of Intent to Award on January 17, 2024. The bid protest period expired with no protest filed.

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the award of RFP #2023-RFP-161 to TCS International, Inc. for the Main Street Garage and the Heritage Garage Parking Guidance System in the amount of \$236,225.00. Funding is included in the Parking Fund for this purpose.