



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Council Session

## Item G-16

**#2023-51 - Approving Emergency Procurement of Burdick Station  
CO2 Fire Suppression System**

Staff Contact: Tim Luchsinger, Stacy Nonhof

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Timothy G. Luchsinger, Utilities Director  
Stacy Nonhof, Assistant City Attorney

**Meeting Date:** February 28, 2023

**Subject:** Approving Emergency Procurement of Burdick  
Generating Station CO2 Fire Suppression System

**Presenter(s):** Timothy G. Luchsinger, Utilities Director

## **Background**

Burdick Generating Station's oldest generating unit, GT1, is Grand Island's black start unit, meaning it can be started when no outside power is available, and can be used to start Grand Island's other units, Platte Generating Station and Burdick's GT2 and GT3, and restore electric service to the City in the extreme situation of a regional event. GT1 is also part of the generation portfolio used to meet the minimum generation capacity requirements of the regional electric system operator, the Southwest Power Pool, for the City's load demand. Each year, the generating units are required to be tested at full load to show they are operational and can be included as part of our generation capacity. This testing must be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and not meeting this date could require the Department to procure temporary capacity from outside parties to meet City load requirements.

GT1 is protected with a carbon dioxide fire suppression system that has recently failed inspection and testing. The system is the original from 1968 and the Department's insurance carrier, FM Global, is requiring that a new system meeting current standards must be installed.

The normal process specified by City procurement procedures require a minimum of four weeks to formally bid and award the contract, with four weeks to design the CO2 system, and four weeks to build, install, and commission.

## **Discussion**

To avoid a possible disruption of public utility services, the Department requests to use Section 27-13, Emergency Procurements, of the city code. Bids for the system would be solicited from known vendors and ratified by Council at a subsequent meeting, but work would proceed in a timely manner to restore operation of GT1 and allow performing the

capacity test by the required date. The total cost of the replacement of the fire suppression system has been estimated not to exceed \$200,000.00.

### **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that Council approve the use of Section 27-13 Emergency Procurement to replace the fire suppression system at Burdick Generating Station for a cost not to exceed \$200,000.00.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the use of Section 27-13 Emergency Procurement to replace the fire suppression system not to exceed \$200,000.00.

RESOLUTION 2023-51

WHEREAS, the Burdick Generating Station's CO2 fire suppression system failed in January and GT1 can no longer be operated until it is restored; and

WHEREAS, to follow the formal bidding process and allow for time to build, install and commission a new system would not allow for required testing on the generation capacity by the due date of May 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Department requests to use Section 27-13 Emergency Procurement to replace the fire suppression system at Burdick Generating Station for a cost not to exceed \$200,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that the Utilities Department can use Section 27-13 Emergency Procurement to replace the fire suppression system not to exceed \$200,000.00.

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Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, February 28, 2023.

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Roger G. Steele, Mayor

Attest:

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	▣ _____
February 24, 2023	▣ City Attorney