



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4916, **Agenda Item #:** 52.

7/18/2024

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for consulting services related to Austin Convention Center redevelopment with Conventional Wisdom Corp., for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,300,000.

[Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Convention Center Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$215,000 is available in the Capital Budget of the Austin Convention Center Department.

Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Services.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500.

Additional Backup Information:

This contract is for consulting services for the redevelopment of the Austin Convention Center. The expansion of the convention center has been contemplated and studied for nearly a decade. In 2019, Council approved an increase in the municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax rate from 7% to 9% to fund the redevelopment and expansion.

Conventional Wisdom Corp. has been involved with all phases of planning and development of the convention center since an initial 2015 Gensler study. The existing 6-block facility is expected to be demolished in 2025 with the new, larger facility expected to open in 2029. As the Austin Convention Center Department moves into the next phases of design and construction, Conventional Wisdom Corp.'s expertise, knowledge of the building, and technical advice is invaluable, and as such the department desires to continue utilizing the consultant.

Some of the work to be performed by Conventional Wisdom Corp. includes design review and program compliance through concept, schematic design development and construction phases, providing technical advice and input on interior design and furnishings, identifying the optimal programming and operations of the facility, and assisting with identifying required work and tasks related to the redeveloped the convention center.

This contract replaces an existing contract with Conventional Wisdom Corp. for similar services which expires July 30th, 2025. The current contract does not have sufficient authority left to include the work required for this phase of the redevelopment. The requested authorization amount is based on department estimates and the contractor's proposal.

A delay in contract approval could impact the completion of design and construction in a timely matter for the expected reopen date of 2029.