



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 7/21/2020

New Business

Department: Sustainability

Presenter(s): Jeremiah LeRoy

Contact(s): jeremiah.leroy@buncombecounty.org

Subject: Solar Bid Solicitation

Brief Summary:

The County has received bids for the solar solicitation for public agencies. The solicitation consisted of 47 individual projects on facilities/land belonging to the County, City, City Schools, County Schools and AB Tech.

MB Haynes provided the low bid, which was approximately \$10.3M for county and education partner projects (does not include the City of Asheville projects).

Public Agency	Project Cost
Buncombe County	\$2,440,230
AB Tech	\$1,114,689
Buncombe County Schools	\$4,528,341
Asheville City Schools	\$2,199,876
TOTAL	\$10,283,136

The first year utility savings for all projects (excluding the City of Asheville) is \$623,219. Over the 30 year lifetime of the project, the utility savings are estimated at \$27.2M.

A simple payback analysis of the projects listed above shows 11 to 14 years for the savings to pay back the cost of the project.

Funds were not allocated in the FY21 budget for the county's projects nor the education partners' projects. Commissioners will need to determine which projects listed in the table above to fund and the source of funding. Funding sources which may be considered are 1) School Capital Commission funds, 2) Buncombe County funds or 3) combining Buncombe County funds with revenue from Education partners' energy rebates and savings from reduced utility costs. If option 3 is chosen, staff recommends entering into an MOU with each education partner to allow staff to gather energy savings data and receive rebate revenue.

A 15 yr financing is the preferred option given the cost and the life of the projects.

If approved, construction would begin in September 2020 and be completed by Spring/Summer 2022.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Discuss options and provide feedback on the next steps on contract with MB Haynes.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

Provide guidance to staff on next steps.