

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: November 23, 2020

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jon Janowski, Interim Executive Director, Department on Aging

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Executive Director, Department on Aging, requesting authorization to enter into a 2021 purchase of service contract with First Transit Inc. from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 at a cost of \$1,459,071**

Issue

The Interim Executive Director, Department on Aging, is requesting authorization to enter into a 2021 purchase of service contract with First Transit Inc. at a cost of \$1,459,071 from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to provide specialized transportation services to Milwaukee County's older adult residents.

Background and Rationale

The recommended contract allocation will allow the Department on Aging to provide specialized transportation services to older adult residents of Milwaukee County throughout 2021. Specialized transportation connects seniors with healthcare, social services, nutrition, and recreation.

Department staff will coordinate and monitor this program. Specific program guidelines and performance measures have been included in the proposed contract. The vendor is required to provide monthly reports that assist the Department to:

- Evaluate vendor performance
- Track spending
- Analyze service indicators and demographics

Specialized Transportation for Older Adults

Through First Transit Inc. the Department on Aging's specialized transportation program will connect older adults to grocery stores, healthcare, voting sites, wellness activities, and senior centers to ensure that they remain healthy, engaged, and to the extent possible, socially connected. First Transit Inc. will utilize a Minority Business Enterprise, People's Transit, to fulfill a 17% TBE set aside requirement.

The Department previously contracted with Able Access Transportation, which made a business decision to discontinue this contract with Milwaukee County in 2021. The 2021 award recommendation of \$1,459,071 is based upon the proposal submitted by the vendor as well as sufficient funding designated for specialized transportation services for older adults that was included in the 2021 Adopted Milwaukee County Budget.

Racial Equity Impact

Transportation is a noted issue in terms of racial equity and has been documented in Milwaukee County by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The lack of a vehicle for a household is a more common issue in neighborhoods of Milwaukee that are primarily populated by African Americans. For example, in the Amani neighborhood, 92% of residents are African American and over a third (37%) do not have a vehicle available to their household, compared to 14% of households across Milwaukee County.¹

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Interim Executive Director of the Department on Aging to enter into this 2021 purchase of service contract with First Transit Inc. per the narrative above and in the amounts specified in the accompanying resolution.

Because of the late decision of the previous vendor to discontinue services in 2021, the full Milwaukee County Commission on Aging did not meet before a vendor was identified. However, at their meeting on November 13, 2020, the Commission on Aging and its Service Delivery Committee were informed of the services to be provided under this contract once a suitable vendor was identified. The Service Delivery Committee will review this award recommendation at its meeting on December 10, 2020 and will be involved in ongoing monitoring of contract performance during its regularly scheduled meetings in 2021.

Fiscal Effect

A total of \$1,459,071 is reflected in the recommended purchase of service contract. Transportation services provided through the Milwaukee County Department on Aging (Aging) are funded by the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), State of Wisconsin Section 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program for Counties, and State Basic County Allocation funds. A fiscal note form is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 414-379-3569.

Respectfully,



Jon Janowski, Interim Executive Director
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

¹ Amani BNCP Profile, Data You Can Use. <https://datayoucanuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Amani-BNCP-Profile.pdf>

cc:

County Executive David Crowley

Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee

Sup. Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office

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