

County of Milwaukee Interoffice Communication

DATE: 6/25/2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman

FROM: Donna Brown-Martin, Director, Department of Transportation
John Blonien, Director, Division of Fleet Management

SUBJECT: Fleet Electrification Request for Information – For Information Unless Otherwise Requested by the Committee

BACKGROUND

The 2021 Adopted Operating Budget for Milwaukee County requested the Fleet Management Division of the Department of Transportation (Fleet) to issue a request-for-information (RFI) on the costs associated with contracting with a consultant to provide the report to the County Board of Supervisors on how the County may transition its fleet of passenger motor vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs). The budget further directed that the RFI seek information on necessary infrastructure improvements, life cycle cost of EVs versus hybrid and standard combustion engine vehicles, and EV operation and maintenance training. Fleet was to report back on costs associated with procuring a consultant study for electrification of the County's passenger vehicle fleet by July 2021.

On April 8, 2021, the Fleet Electrification Consultant Acquisition RFI (#98210019) was posted on Milwaukee County's website with responses due by May 14, 2021. Eight responses were received and RENEW Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization that promotes renewable energy in Wisconsin, submitted helpful comments and items to consider in the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP).

All of the respondents provided information that will be very helpful in writing a very comprehensive and robust RFP. Extensive collection of requisite data (e.g., number and size of vehicles in the fleet, age of fleet, location of vehicles and substations) was emphasized in the responses. Without a complete picture of Milwaukee County's fleet enterprise, prospective RFP proposers will provide insufficient and inaccurate proposals. Included in the data gathering will be charging stations for public use, which may require a similar but modified approach. Other considerations include end-state objective(s) for fleet electrification and an estimated future budget allotted for fleet electrification and/or acquisitions.

The RFI asked for the potential cost of hiring a consultant to develop a fleet electrification plan for Milwaukee County. Estimates ranged from \$10,000 - \$500,000. Given the size of Milwaukee County's fleet and multiple locations where fleet vehicles and equipment are stored, Fleet expects costs to be closer to the higher end of the range. Additionally, Fleet would need to hire a project manager to assist in RFP development, oversee data collection, lead communication and outreach efforts to customer departments and, once the successful proposal is selected, liaise with the consultant throughout development of a fleet electrification plan. Allotting three months of data collection and RFP development and six months for plan development, a project manager would be needed for approximately nine months.

Fleet does not have funding available for RFP development and hiring the successful proposer. Therefore, funding would be required from either the appropriation for contingency account or the 2022 operating budget.

This report is for informational purposes unless otherwise directed.

Prepared by:

John Blonien, Fleet Director

Julie Esch, Deputy Director

Approved by:

Julie Esch, Deputy

Donna Brown-Martin, Director

Department of Transportation

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Janelle Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager