



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 21-605, **Version:** 1

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**ITEM TITLE:**

Consider authorizing Public Utilities staff to use CIP funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to contract out the emergency replacement of damaged or historically problematic water main segments.

**INITIATOR:** Rusty Whisenhunt, Director of Public Utilities

**STAFF INFORMATION SOURCE:** Rusty Whisenhunt, Director of Public Utilities

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Lawton Water Distribution Division is currently staffed at 54% of its field crew. These personnel are dispatched to detect, diagnose, maintain, repair, or replace city water mains as necessary. Because of this prolonged and significant staffing shortage of key knowledgeable and capable personnel there has developed a backlog of line segment replacements which are not being address in a timely manner. To expedite the replacement of identified lines, we propose bidding out multiple projects, each addressing the replacement of an individual water line segment approximately 300' in length with fire hydrants. With the new rules relating to public construction contracts, the segments may be put out for bid without the previous time requirements. Each project would range from \$20,000-\$50,000 dollars and would constitute a full segment replacement, not just point repairs. Using this method would drastically expedite the replacement of identified water lines, reduce and alleviate the impact of water leaks to the citizens of Lawton, and reduce water loss occurring through ongoing leaks.

**EXHIBIT:** NA

**KEY ISSUES:** Does Council wish to authorize Public Utilities staff to use CIP funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to contract out the emergency replacement of damaged or historically problematic water main segments?

**FUNDING SOURCE:** 2019 Propel CIP Water & Sewerline Replacement Account

**STAFF RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:** Authorize Public Utilities staff to use CIP funds in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 to contract out the emergency replacement of damaged or historically problematic water main segments to reduce and alleviate the impact of compromised water lines to the citizens of Lawton.