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Arkansas Democrat Gazette

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS EDITION

FORT SMITH : \$31.6 million bid accepted for water treatment plant

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE
 Posted on Wednesday, July 22, 2009
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FORT SMITH - City directors Tuesday awarded a \$31.6 million contract to a Rogers builder to renovate and upgrade its aging water treatment plant at Lake Fort Smith, north of Mountainburg.

Crossland Heavy Contractors Inc. submitted the low bid among four companies vying for the work, which will consist of retiring Fort Smith's 1936 water treatment plant, renovating the 1960s-era water filtering building, providing new raw-water treatment process units and increasing the plant's treatment capacity to 40 million gallons a day, an increase of 10 million gallons.

The improvements will meet the city's water treatment needs at least until 2015 or 2020, according to a memorandum to city directors from utilities director Steve Parke.

The other three bidders were Branco Enterprises Inc. of Neosho, Mo., with a bid of \$34.6 million; Van Horn Construction Inc. of Russellville with a bid of \$34.82 million; and BRB Contractors Inc. of Topeka, Kan., with a bid of \$37.75 million.

The contract awarded Tuesday is the third and largest on the project. In May, Fort Smith city directors awarded contracts of \$2.79 million and \$2.14 million to renovate the plant's residual lagoons and to build a 4 million-gallon clear well.



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lagoons and to build a 4 million gallon clear well.

Residual lagoons temporarily hold solids filtered out during the water treatment process. A clear well is a storage tank that buffers the flow of water between the treatment plant and water transmission line.

The treatment plant improvement project, estimated to cost \$45 million total, is expected to take 18 to 24 months to complete.

Improvements to the treatment plant will complement the \$100 million expansion of the city's reservoir at Lake Fort Smith completed in 2007.

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